

*Town of Ticonderoga*

# State of the Town

*Year in Review - 2025*



December 2025

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## Executive Summary

The Ticonderoga Town Supervisor is pleased to present this State of the Town report from the Supervisor's office. This is the fourth and final State of the Town report issued by the Town of Ticonderoga during this administration. This report is a semi-comprehensive summary of several projects and activities conducted in 2025. The reader may desire to focus on specific sections of interest rather than read the entire report. This State of the Town report documents our successes as well as our shortfalls. It is important to understand that failure is not the opposite of success; it is part of success, and we must always pass through failure on our journey to success.

Ticonderoga continued its aggressive approach in 2025 towards revitalization with forward movements with our New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) projects with one project now complete. The Town also partnered with North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC, formerly PRIDE of Ticonderoga) to offer an improved ice-skating rink facility improvement this year.



*New pencil sculpture at the Heritage Museum.*

Once again, we understand the extreme workload burden on staff to accomplish day-to-day tasks while increasing our efforts with new endeavors, but the projects in 2025 were important and significant – DRI contract movements, airport enhancements, water system project accomplishments, and much more. Many goals were achieved, some projects remain in progress, others laid the foundation for work which will begin or continue in 2026. This report identifies the status of each goal. The following nomenclature applies to tasks regarding goal status:

**COMPLETED:** The goal was completed during the year.

**PARTIALLY COMPLETED:** The goal is in work and was expected to be across fiscal years.

**NOT COMPLETED:** The goal should have been or was expected to be achieved during the year and was not.

Some of the goals of this administration included (in no order of priority):

Second Term (1<sup>st</sup> Year)

- ✓ Establish an Ambulance District.
- ✓ Continue economic development and revitalization activities.
- ✓ Obtain new home for Ticonderoga Police Department.
- ✓ Begin execution of NYS approved DRI projects.
- ✓ Obligate all ARPA funding.
- ✓ Continue implementing town threat assessment mitigations and building security plan.
- ✓ Complete Town Internal Emergency Response Plan.
- ✓ Continue employee morale improvement/sustainment and delegation efforts.
- ✓ Continue resident access to and communication with the Supervisor's office.
- ✓ Adopt a Sick Leave Donation policy.
- ✓ Complete Alexandria bridge construction.
- ✓ Improve/maintain coordination and partnership with community organizations.
- ✓ Improve and maintain infrastructure (sidewalk replacement and paving operations).
- ✓ Advance progress on Chilson/Eagle Lake water solution (settle litigation).
- ✓ Scrutinize town budget and reformat for water district consolidation.
- ✓ Support Regan Development Corporation 60-unit apartment complex project.
- ✓ Begin construction of La Chute Trail Extension project.
- ✓ Vigorously enforce litter and nuisance laws.
- ✓ Begin removal of blighted properties.
- ✓ Initiate airport apron expansion project design phase and grant application.



Second Term (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

- ✓ Begin updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan using grant funding.
- ✓ Establish Ticonderoga as a certified NYS Pro-Housing Community.
- ✓ Monitor and support Montcalm Street Bridge design and pre-construction planning.
- ✓ Secure a K9 officer and training program.
- ✓ Continue DRI project design and planning/construction phase as directed by NYS.
- ✓ Continue infrastructure improvements.
- ✓ Execute a TiME microgrant award in 2025 for 2026 award.
- ✓ Support completion of Mural Project and Library sculpture garden.
- ✓ Execute municipal DRI contracts.
- ✓ Initiate airport vault and taxiway lighting design phase and grant application.
- ✓ Complete initial demo and construction for new Ticonderoga Police Department.

- ✓ Continue advancement of Chilson/Eagle Lake municipal water solution (test wells).
- ✓ Continue resident access to and communication with the Supervisor's office.
- ✓ Initiate airport apron expansion project design phase.
- ✓ Support Regan Development Corporation 60-unit apartment complex project.
- ✓ Complete construction and officially open the La Chute River Walkway Extension.
- ✓ Initiate and complete Town staff salary review.
- ✓ Vigorously enforce litter and nuisance laws.
- ✓ Continue removal of blighted properties.
- ✓ Develop a paved parking lot at NE corner of Tower Avenue and Burgoyne Road.
- ✗ Level and pave Mt. Defiance Public Parking lot.
- ✗ Adopt roadway between The Portage and Defiance Street as official town road.
- ✓ Install radar speed limit signs on NY 74.
- ✓ Approve a dedicated part-time court security officer.
- ✓ Obtain municipal paper products from our local mill vs. other manufacturers.
- ✓ Support additional skating rink improvements.
- ✓ Develop and implement a fee system for vehicle charging stations.
- ✓ Create historic marker database.
- ✓ Convert webpage and email accounts to .gov per mandatory State order.

## Economic Development / Revitalization

Ticonderoga's economic development remains an active and ongoing mission. The Town continued the efforts of its Economic Development Committee (EDC). This has continued as a successful effort in 2025, and I am pleased to report that all revitalization and economic development organizations continue to have a better understanding regarding status of all their partner organization's revitalization efforts and where they are going in terms of goals. The Committee has better coordinated town and area-wide projects among organizations. The partnership efforts between North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC) and Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA) reaped a successful DRI project completion for phase I of the 108 Montcalm Street rehabilitation. This partnership between these two organizations and the Town have worked to better serve the interests of Ticonderoga and surrounding area. Ticonderoga continues to build itself as a destination. Americade, annual Triathlon, and fishing



Mural Festival Color Run.

tournaments visited us again this year. StreetFest, FallFest, Best 4<sup>th</sup> in the North, and other annual activities continue to draw visitors and entertain residents. A Mural Festival and Fireside Folk Festival were added this year.

## Access & Communication

There has been a continued noticeable difference in information access and distribution among staff and departments as well as information sharing with the public during 2025 and during the last four (4) years of this administration.



Repainting 85 Montcalm St via NRDC funding.

The Town Supervisor continued to be available to residents. Walk-ins were encouraged and phone calls/emails were promptly returned. The Supervisor continued to walk around the town and attend events which allowed further access for residents.

## Employee Morale

The Town continued in its efforts to maintain and increase staff morale with a goal of lowering staff turnover, decreasing training costs and associated impacts, increasing

job satisfaction, and to make municipal jobs sought after once again like they once were many years ago. Even with our attempts to maintain staffing levels, we are subject to attrition, retirement, and post-COVID effects. These claimed several positions this year and it has been challenging to find replacement staff. Despite a more relaxed and less micro-managed work environment, the Town still has a requirement to give a professional 8 hours of work for 8 hours of pay and to be accountable for one's actions.

## Increase Coordination & Partnership

The Town has been heavily engaged working with the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA), North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC), Essex County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA), Essex County Office of Community Resources (ECCR), Essex County Land Bank (ECLB), and the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership (TMSP) during 2025 as part of its goal to increase coordination with community partners for the benefit of economic development/revitalization while avoiding reinventing the wheel and the duplication of effort. The Town Supervisor attended TACC, TRA, and TMSP board meetings in the ex-officio role. The Town has also coordinated with Sylvamo,

the Fort Ticonderoga Association, Silver Bay Association, National Grid, Patriot Hydro, and other partners.

## Improve Infrastructure

Paving of public streets and replacement of public sidewalks continued in 2025 using budgeted funds. This has been a major goal of the Town Supervisor for the past four years. The Town prepared to pave a new parking lot in October at the corner of Tower Avenue and Burgoyne Road to accommodate ice rink and recreation park patrons. The Town continued its efforts with a private investor for the construction of an additional and privately funded hangar at the municipal airport. The Town also worked closely with the County for the upcoming replacement of Montcalm Street Bridge. Ticonderoga continues to responsibly repair its infrastructure and lay the groundwork for economic vitality. No one will invest in Ticonderoga if we fail to invest in ourselves.

## Budget

The 2026 town budget was finely scrutinized through a total of eight (8) budget workshops during which no public attended. The Town witnessed an initial low inflation rate rise of 2.6% but a major increase of 10.4% on health insurance. This cost and the cost of maintaining emergency medical services, both of which should be but are not excluded from the tax cap calculation, pushed the budget over the NYS tax cap.

## Conclusion

The State of the Town is good and continually moving forward. There is much Ticonderoga should accomplish. It has been my pleasure and my honor to serve my hometown of Ticonderoga and its residents over the past two terms (4 years). We have made positive, transformative, and incredibly substantial changes. Ticonderoga does not sit on its laurels. We have several projects and improvements in work, some of which are required for the betterment of our residents, and some which are mandated unfortunately without the funding, known as unfunded mandates, to



*NYS Secretary of State, Walter T. Mosley, visits DRI rehabilitation work at 108 Montcalm.*

complete such as water meters and compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 with amendments associated with Gooseneck Pond.



*New sidewalks on this section of Algonkin Street.*

As stated last year, we remain on a positive trajectory and are constantly improving. Sometimes the associated decisions to accomplish this mission are difficult but they are always in the best interest of Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga is coming back, and many eyes remain focused on Ticonderoga, on what we do and what and how we are doing it! Ticonderoga was featured in multiple publications including World Atas ("You Won't Believe This Town is in New York"), Smithsonian Magazine ("The 15 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2025"), Adirondack Explorer ("New Life for Zombie Houses"), and ADK Taste ("Walls Between Waters – Ticonderoga Murals").

There is a continued air of

positivity, forward movement, and investment by private entities but there must also be a focus of positive energy by our residents. The DRI effort alone will significantly change the look of the main Montcalm business district and riverfront for decades to come. This revitalization will improve business, encourage new investment, allow walkability, and play a major role in decarbonization. Many goals have been accomplished, but there are always new projects and tasks on the horizon. Even upon achieving all our goals, there is always room for improvement to make a better life for all residents. Never stop making a better Ticonderoga.

I wish to thank all the Ticonderoga Town staff and town partners who worked diligently every day to make this a successful year for Ticonderoga.

Mark A. Wright, Supervisor  
Town of Ticonderoga

# 1.0 Employee Morale

The most valuable resource of any organization is its people. It has been a continuing goal to provide an efficient yet pleasant work environment. Employee morale efforts continued in 2025. Staff are encouraged to express their ideas and personalize their work environment. The existing teams (HR, Labor Relations, legal, youth, Assessor, etc.) have continued to make the work environment smooth and efficient. All Town staff must complete their assigned duties, but office life need not be unenjoyable and drab.



## 1.1 Delegation & Eliminating Micromanagement

**GOAL:** Focus on Delegation and Remove Micromanagement

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Delegation of duties continued as a major goal in 2025 to increase productivity and morale and allow staff to become more invested in the mission. Ticonderoga has a wealth of talented and

skilled town workers with each having the skill and subject matter expertise which keep the town operating. Employing delegation techniques has been effective when dealing with limited resources and time. Staff continue to accomplish their duties without micromanagement and Department heads carry out their responsibilities without unwarranted Town Supervisor intervention.



*Senior Finance staff, Amy and Rebecca show their Ticonderoga 1804 (town founding date) Sentinel pride attire during annual training.*

Our Recreation Supervisor position is working well, and this position allows the Town Supervisor to delegate all after school program, summer program, and public beach program responsibilities to a dedicated and knowledgeable individual. This continues to remove day-to-day involvement by the Supervisor in these HR-related activities. The Town had searched many times for an Assistant Recreation Supervisor to ensure program continuity,

finally reaching success in 2025. Our in-house HR representative continues to work with the Supervisor, Department Heads, and the Town HR consultant in personnel matters. Inquiries and comments to the Town Supervisor in specific areas continue to be referred to the appropriate Department Head and/or position, usually Highway Department, Police Department, or Code

Enforcement related actions in 2025. Delegation has successfully placed the right role, responsibility, and task with the right person and department, increasing efficiency, responding faster to resident issues, and freeing the Town Supervisor to focus on tasks which clearly lie in that role.

## 1.2 Employee Recognition

**GOAL:** Recognize Individuals

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Often, what people want most is simply recognition and a word of thanks. The Town Supervisor instituted an “Above & Beyond” award in 2023. This program recognizes town staff who went above and beyond in the performance of their duties. An individual may be recommended by a co-worker, department head, or the Town Supervisor. The Town Supervisor determines eligibility and provides an award which consists of a unique wooden token and a certificate.



*Above & Beyond Award to Wayne Taylor*

The Town recognized one of our senior bus drivers, Wayne Taylor, who stepped up to keep the senior bus program running when the town vehicle experienced a severe engine issue requiring a driver with a CDL certification to operate an Essex County loaner bus.



*Above & Beyond Award*

This program is totally funded at the Town Supervisor's personal expense for the design and purchase of the award tokens and certificate stock. This award is very limited and only available to Town staff (Department Heads and Elected Officials are not eligible).

## 2.0 Economic Development

Economic Development is a key mission goal for Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga is coming back after slowly declining economically over many decades for many reasons. The Town now has maintained excellent working relationships with local/regional revitalization and economic development organizations. The Economic Development Committee is doing well and meets monthly. Committee members include the Town of Ticonderoga (two board members) and representatives from North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC), the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership (TMSP), Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA), Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), Fort Ticonderoga Association, and Business.



*Artist concept of the DRI Streetscape project for Montcalm St.*

### 2.1 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

**GOAL:** Begin DRI Municipal Projects

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

Sponsors, including the Town of Ticonderoga, continued working on the eight (8) New York State approved DRI projects this year. These projects included Streetscape project (\$3,694,000), Branding project (\$330,000), Small Projects (\$600,000), Adirondack Performing Arts Center (\$2,115,000), Adirondack Drive (\$566,000), 108 Montcalm (\$1,265,000), La Chute River Front (\$754,000), and Revitalize Co-Op (\$376,000).



*Knee wall work on 108 Montcalm Street.*

TACC, North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC) and others reached out in 2024 and 2025 to assist those project sponsors whose projects did not go forward under DRI. The Town and its

partners understand that all projects are important to Ticonderoga's economic growth and prosperity. This outreach enables all organizations to keep the needs of other community partners in the queue for future funding opportunities.

## Municipal Projects

The Town Supervisor met with NYS DOS officials on May 9 for an update on upcoming activities and expectations and again on May 12 to discuss contract paperwork. Contracts were signed and the packages were sent to New York State on May 28 where they will be reviewed. Work on 108 Montcalm began in November and other private projects are in the initial stages. The NYS Department of State will handle all municipal projects.

## Small Projects

The DRI Small Projects Fund recipient list was announced in June which benefited eight (8) proposed transformative projects. Small Projects is a portion of the \$10M NYS DRI award to Ticonderoga which is allotted to assist local businesses with small-scale building and onsite improvements. Funding was sub-granted to North Country Rural Development Coalition. Projects were chosen by non-local professionals and based on a competitive process which required a local match from each successful applicant. Recipients included Adirondack Trading Post, Blee's Salon and Spa, Olio Piro's (which will occupy the former Rathbun Jewelers location), Champ Café/Punky Noodles, Burleigh's Luncheonette, Bain's SUNOCO, and That's RAD. Bain's declined the award shortly after receiving it and that funding was reallocated to another project at the Circle Court Motel. By September, three projects were in work with others following shortly thereafter.



110 Montcalm St. Small Projects  
award recipient.

## 2.2 New & Expanded Business

## GOAL: Track New Business Development

## STATUS: COMPLETED

Many businesses opened their doors, had ribbon cuttings, and/or expanded in 2025. Some of these transformative projects were the result of DRI Small Project awards which will stabilize and improve the services of existing business. This continues as a positive sign for Ticonderoga, and the Town will continue to track this topic in ensuing years. These new endeavors included:

- ADK Healthy Hub (new business).
- DRI: Sunshine Laundry interior lighting, ramp, flooring, plumbing, water softener.
- DRI: ADK Trading Post replace floor and plumbing, new front stairs, porch repair, painting, roof replacement.
- DRI: Blees Salon – window replacement, masonry repair, solar panel & mini split installation, flooring replacement.
- DRI: Olio Piro -façade and roof repairs, painting, lighting installation, HVAC system.
- DRI: Champ Café – New historically appropriate siding, energy efficient windows, restoration of interior.
- DRI: Burleigh Luncheonette – Storefront window replacement, installation of permanent walk-in cooler.
- DRI: Circle Court Motel.
- DRI: That's RAD – New code-compliant apartments and stabilization.
- BAK'd: opened at 43 Montcalm Street.
- Cobbler's Bench: Sold for development into expanded brewery/restaurant/ apartment.
- Agway: Sold to Essex County Land Bank for demolition and return to green space.
- Trek Tour: expanded for an exhibit of the Shuttle Galileo used in production.



*ADK Health ribbon cutting.*

## 2.3 Airport Developments

**GOAL:** Airport Fly-In & Open House

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The event included aircraft exhibits where visitors could sit in aircraft (fixed and rotor) and speak to pilots, tour the airport hangar, see demonstrations, free children's activities, review classic automobiles, enjoy lunch at a food truck (Windchill Factory), and more.



*2<sup>nd</sup> annual airport Fly-In & Open House.*

**GOAL:** Airport Hangar Expansion

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

Some may not realize the incredible treasure that we have in our municipal airport. To better share this story and increase awareness of the airport among residents, pilots, and visitors, the Town's Airport Committee held the second annual airport Fly-In & Open House event. This event

was held on June 14 and provided a terrific opportunity for residents and visitors to become familiar with this critical transportation artery while experiencing a day of fun with family and friends.

The airport is an important part of Ticonderoga's economy and future growth. During 2024 and 2025, an individual approached the Airport Committee with a proposal to construct a private hangar and any applicable apron (constructed to FAA standards) using private funding. The Town, Town Attorney, and its airport consultants worked with this individual throughout the year. The private individual would own the hangar but lease the land from the Town. Work began in 2024 to develop a lease agreement with the developer and future owner. A draft lease was presented for review to the developer in December and finalized in Spring 2025. Legal comments were dispositioned during June and July. The Town Board approved the signing of a lease at the September regular town board meeting.

Hangar expansion at the airport is a part of the Town's airport master plan with the FAA. This is the next critical economic development related project for the airport, and it would base additional aircraft at the airport guaranteeing continued annual FAA funding with no interruption should the airport-based aircraft level fall below 10 aircraft. Additional structures at the airport are limited without further expansion of acreage for the airport, which is also a part of the master plan. Land expansion is an ongoing task.

This year we unfortunately lost a longtime member of the Airport Committee, pilot, and longtime friend to many, Jon Hanna. Donations of time and funding supported a more lasting tribute to Jon through the purchase of a bench and memorial plaque which will remain at the airport for many years to come. The Town of Ticonderoga thanks Jon for his many years of service.

## 2.4 Comprehensive Plan

**GOAL:** Hire Consultant & Update Plan

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Town, working with Essex County Office of Community Resources, continued developing an update to the town's comprehensive plan. Funding was awarded via a grant through the NYS Environmental Development Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Program in December 2023. The Essex County Office of Community Resources reached out to committee members in January 2025 to announce plans going forward. In March, the Essex County Office of Community Resources provided the Comprehensive Planning Committee members with three proposals for evaluation. The Committee met on March 27 to review the three proposals

received and provided a recommendation to the Ticonderoga Town Board which was accepted and approved through resolution on April 24. The Town signed a consultant contract with LaBella Associates on May 12 which kicked off the work of the consultant and Committee to develop an update to the comprehensive plan.

The Town Supervisor participated in an organizational meeting on May 29 and a kickoff meeting with the consultant and Planning Committee on July 9. Committee and Core meetings continued throughout the year. Focus group meetings and interviews were conducted in November. The plan will be completed in 2026. Residents may find updates and other information on the town website.



## 2.5 Regan Development Corporation

**GOAL:** Planning & Zoning Board Approval

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town Supervisor contacted developer, Larry Regan, in 2022 and invited his company to consider a potential development in Ticonderoga. Today, Regan Development Corporation continues in its efforts to develop a 60-unit apartment complex proposed for the Fireman's Field location off NY74. This is a critical project for Ticonderoga to bring drastically needed housing to our community as well as a potential section of daycare within the facility satisfying a second critical necessity. The project attended Planning & Zoning Board meetings in 2024 and continued with plans for combined sewer overflow mitigations in 2025. The project applied to the New York State Division of Housing and Urban Renewal (HCR) in September for housing tax credits.

## 2.6 Housing Initiatives

**GOAL:** Certify Town as a Pro-Housing Community

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Town Board applied for the NYS Pro-Housing Community. In May, the Town Board passed a resolution to adopt the Pro-Housing Community Pledge. This was the last action

before approval by NYS. North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC) aided the Town on the application to supply any remaining documentation for State approval. This was completed and on May 22, 2025, New York State Home and Community Renewal informed the Town that Ticonderoga was certified as a Pro-Housing Community. This certification makes the town very competitive for grants and eligible to apply for various discretionary funding programs with up to \$650 million in funding available including possibly opening significantly more funding for water and sewer grant money.

In September, the Town Board approved and endorsed, through resolution, an application by the Essex County Land Bank to the New York State MOVE-IN NY program. This innovative program funds factory-built starter homes which are constructed in a fraction of the time at nearly half the cost. Ticonderoga will be one of many areas to witness new homes under this program.

**GOAL:** Remove Blighted Properties

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Town continued its efforts with the Essex County Board of Supervisors, North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC), and the Essex County Land Bank in 2025 to demolish or rehabilitate blighted properties within Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga is committed to removing blight and holding property owners responsible for code violations. The Town will no longer tolerate nuisance properties and will seek to hold owners accountable.



*The Agway property – Soon to be green space.*

The Town (Supervisor, Police Chief, Code Enforcement) and NRDC coordinated to aid the property owner at 8 Johns Street (a burned-out structure) to sell the property to the Essex County Land Bank. Demolition occurred in April 2025 after many years of sitting vacant, burned out, and abandoned. This site is awaiting construction of a new home. Additional blight removal occurred at 29 Meyers Street with a partial demolition and lead/asbestos abatement. The ribbon cutting for this revitalized home here was held on September 12. A new family purchased the home. A home at 175 The Portage was under a major renovation in May and was 75% completed in October with an estimated

November completion, with additional plans and work proceeding at 130 and 60 The Portage. A subdivision was underway in October for 130 The Portage. Four new homes will be placed there in the Spring of 2026.

NRDC conducted a ribbon cutting in December celebrating the completion of their first Vacant Rental Program (VRP) unit at 8 Calkins Place. This milestone represented an important step forward in expanding high-quality, affordable housing options in our region. The VRP, funded by the State of New York and administered by the Housing Trust Fund Corporation's Office of Community Renewal, supports the repair and rehabilitation of vacant rental units and unused spaces in small-scale properties. The program aims to bring these units back into productive use creating safe, quality, long-term rental opportunities for low- and moderate-income households.

The Essex County Land Bank petitioned the Ticonderoga Town Board to request the following properties be removed from the 2025 tax foreclosure auction sale and placed with the Land Bank for revitalization: 105 Montcalm Street; 6 Battery Street; 56 Lake George Avenue; 7 Wiley Street; and 21 Lake George Avenue. The Ticonderoga Supervisor made this request in September which was approved by the Essex County Board of Supervisors in October.

New construction began in August at 67 Montcalm Street as a new apartment house will transform the former abandoned lot, the result of a fire which consumed two abandoned structures. The foundation was laid, and walls began construction in October. This structure will fill the previous void for the area and greatly improve the aesthetics.



67 Montcalm Street construction.

The property currently occupied by the old Agway was purchased by the Essex County Land Bank in September. The Land Bank will use CDBG funding to remove the structure and turn the parcel into green space. Unfortunately, this property was neglected for far too many decades. The last three previous owners have determined that the cost to renovate and abate is prohibitive and far exceeds the return on the investment.

Structural engineers provided valuable information which supports the action to remove the structure.

Additional great news announced the receipt of supplemental funding to support the rehabilitation of 116 Montcalm Street, the former Pearls and Cobbler's Bench structure. This historic structure dates to 1887 when Rowell and Shattuck built this business. This development will create five new housing units along with a new retail business.



116 Montcalm Street.

## 2.7 TiME Microgrant

**GOAL:** Execute 2025 Microgrant Program

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town Supervisor, TACC CEO and President and the Essex County IDA met on March 7, 2025, to initiate another round of microgrants for Ticonderoga. The Town Board approved the transfer of \$50,000 of occupancy tax funding to the Essex County Industrial Development Agency in August for eventual distribution to successful applicants in 2026. Occupancy tax funds can only be used for activities which promote tourism, something our local businesses do every day. Pre-coordination and information sessions are scheduled for January 2026 with awards issued in March to qualified Ticonderoga business venture projects which will aid in developing tourism and economic revitalization.

## 2.8 Solar Projects

**GOAL:** Support Solar Projects

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Ticonderoga continues to facilitate solar projects through Town staff and partners with Essex County Office of Community Resources to execute a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) schedule that has become attractive and affordable for solar companies, while also generating revenue for

the town and private property owners. Agreements include provisions for eventual removal of equipment and returning the land to its former state when the project ends its life cycle. Ticonderoga has an abundance of level ground and proximity to high-voltage transmission lines which are two conditions essential for solar farms.

Six (6) solar farms have been approved to date through the Planning & Zoning Board for construction. Pivot solar 1 (Commerce Park), Pivot solar 6 (Old Chilson Road), Pivot solar 9 (Huestis on NYS 9N), Pivot solar 5 (Delano Road), and Ticon Solar (Charboneau Road) have been completed and are supplying power to the grid. The Doering (49 Veterans Road) project was under construction during the summer and fall of 2025.

## 2.9 Lowe's Property Development

**GOAL:** Support in Finding a Tenant

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Town continued to respond to requests for information regarding the Lowe's property. The property is private property, owned by a publicly traded real estate investment trust, which leases the property to Lowes. This lease expires in February 2029. Lowes has a renewal option to extend the lease until 2090, but this option is not expected to occur. The current owner has stated that it has no interest in leasing or selling as it recently acquired the property pursuant to a merger with the previous owner and therefore, the property is a tax benefit. The Town responded to another data request on this property from NRDC in September 2025 and a second request from Essex County Industrial Development in October.

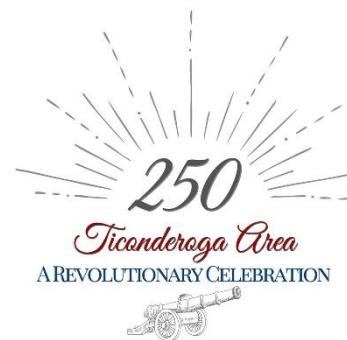
It is important for residents to realize that although the Town seeks to make this private property commercially viable once again, it has no authority to influence or direct the future of the property. The Town coordinated with the Ticonderoga Fire District, the Essex County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA), and others during the last two years to aid those organizations in their attempts to purchase or discuss use of the facility. To date, no efforts to obtain the property have been successful. Agencies such as the ECIDA, Essex County Community Resources, Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce, and North Country Rural Development Coalition continue to work on options for the property.

## 2.10 Commemoration of American Revolution

**GOAL:** Participate in 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Town partnered with the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST), Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA), North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC), Ticonderoga Heritage Museum, Fort Ticonderoga Association, Lower Adirondack Regional Center for History (LARCH), and others in planning and executing events for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution. This celebration will take place in multiple years beginning in 2025 through 2027 depending on the specific event. This year, the Fort Ticonderoga Association completed several real historical events including the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga.



**GOAL:** Support Onward to Canada Event

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town coordinated with the Fort Ticonderoga Association to successfully complete this event. Details were discussed on February 25, 2025, at the Public Safety Committee meeting and subsequent meetings which involved close coordination with the Ticonderoga Police Department. This recreation of preparations for the invasion of Canada involved numerous oxen, wagons, and troops who marched from Mossy Point to Fort Ticonderoga on August 30 following pedestrian traffic. This portion of the recreation followed a successful trip via boats along Lake George from Hague, NY. the original route down The Portage and through the center of Ticonderoga. The Ticonderoga Police Department provided an escort to ensure the safety of participants and other vehicles.



*Onward to Canada historic reenactment.*

**GOAL:** Support Knox Noble Train Event**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town coordinated with the Fort Ticonderoga Association to successfully complete this event on December 7. Details were discussed on November 25, 2025, at the Public Safety Committee meeting. Ticonderoga Police provided escort from Fort Ticonderoga to Mossy Point. Many followed along the route or came out of their homes to witness the Noble Train of Artillery passing on its way to Lake George. The Town was honored to receive a citation from Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins on December 6 to commemorate the event. The Boston Commissioner of Veterans Affairs also presented a proclamation from Boston Major Michelle Wu on December 7. Ticonderoga and the surrounding area played a major role in the American Revolution.

**2.11 Mural Project****GOAL:** Facilitate Mural Project**STATUS: COMPLETED**

North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC) and Essex County Land Bank (ECLB) coordinated with the Town of Ticonderoga and sponsored an extensive mural program in 2025, Walls Between Waters. Project funding was via the Homes and Community Renewal's Land Bank Initiative Program with the ECLB serving as the initiative's fiscal agent. In addition, NRDC also provided a significant amount of funding to make the event a success with an associated day long festival to celebrate the artists and the impact to the community. The festival on June 7 closed Montcalm Street from 8am to 4pm and included a maker's market, artists' workshops, mural dedications, free family activities, a 1K color run, and several musical entertainment venues throughout the day.



*Porcupine mural by Arlin Graff. This animal has a specific relevance to Adirondack Indigenous peoples.*

The goal of the mural program was to transform spaces near blighted, vacant, and abandoned properties through public art installations. Mural projects are well known to enhance community

identity; strengthen community pride and identity; revitalize vacant spaces; transform vacant and abandoned properties into vibrant public spaces; foster community engagement; involve local residents, businesses, and leaders in the planning and execution of the project; promote economic development; attract visitors and increase foot traffic in downtown areas; educate and involve students; and implement



*The General Knox Noble Train of Artillery which passed through Ticonderoga in 1775.*

apprenticeship and outreach programs to engage local students in art and community development.

NRDC sponsored a kickoff meeting on December 4, 2024. A public meeting was held on March 6 to explain the program to the public and to obtain public comment and feedback. The project focused on the creation of six murals in the downtown corridor. The themes for the project included recognizing historic events, lake/river ecology and wildlife, music and modern culture, and local food. Murals were painted between May 19 and June 6 on the former Rathbun's Jewelers building at 110 Montcalm Street

("The Triumph" by Arcy – the Knox Trail Noble Train of Artillery), 106 Montcalm ("Belonging" by Emily Ding), Ti Optics wall at 89 Montcalm Street ("The Workers of Ti" – commemorating the industrial history of papermaking by Tim Parsley), the back side of the House of Pizza at 115 Montcalm Street ("The Place Between Two Waters" by Key Detail), the former L&H Benjamin building at 85 Montcalm Street ("Pathkeeper" by Arlin Graff), and peregrine falcons Sunshine Laundry building at the corner of 174 Lake George Avenue and Montcalm Street ("Entangle" by Justin Suarez aka Aerosol Kingdom).



*Paper mill workers from an original photograph.*

## 2.12 Library Art Project

**GOAL:** Facilitate Children's Sculpture Garden

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town of Ticonderoga supported the North Country Rural Development Coalition in its first annual Fireside Folk Festival in downtown Ticonderoga in October which featured the unveiling of six bronze storybook sculptures at Black Watch Memorial Library. Created by British sculptors Robert Ellis and James Coplestone, the collection includes Peter Rabbit, Winnie the Pooh, Alice in Wonderland and other beloved characters. The Town entered into an agreement with NRDC to allow placement of the statues on town property while NRDC maintains them, the garden, and related insurance.



## 3.0 Infrastructure Improvement

The improvement of our infrastructure is not only important from a safety standpoint but also ties directly to the economic development of Ticonderoga and how our town appears to not only our residents, but also to our visitors and investors. Why would anyone invest in a town which is unwilling to invest in itself? This is the rationale for continuing efforts to improve our infrastructure. Failure to continually improve our infrastructure results in higher costs in the future.

### 3.1 Sidewalk/Paving Replacement

**GOAL:** Continue Sidewalk Replacement

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Ticonderoga's sidewalks have been a prime example of crumbling infrastructure for many decades. Sidewalk replacement was a critical goal for the new Supervisor in 2022 and continued in 2023, 2024, and an additional 10,245 square feet in 2025. Work for 2025 was completed in September. The efforts for 2025 included the following areas:

- Montcalm Street (north side) from Hancock House to the east.
- Amherst Avenue (east side), mid-section.
- Amherst Avenue (west side), mid-section.
- Algonkin Street (southwest corner and section on north side).
- Moses Circle (in front of Hancock House).



*New sidewalk on upper Montcalm Street.*

Year	Budgeted Amount	Square Feet
2022	\$100,000	9,642
2023*	\$200,000	5,520
2024	\$150,000	5,920
2025	\$150,000	10,245
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>31,327</b>

**GOAL:** Continue Annual Paving Operations**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Ticonderoga's Highway Department kicked off the summer with paving operations on Warner Hill Road. Peckham conducted the work under Highway oversight. This road was in very degraded condition.

### 3.2 Downtown Improvements

**GOAL:** Newberry's DRI Phase Renovation**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Renovation at 108 Montcalm Street, which was a DRI project, was completed in September. All structural stabilization issues were addressed by January 2025 and roof work was completed at the end of March with three major roof sections repaired and/or replaced. We were honored to



*Renovated 108 Montcalm Street.*

have New York State Secretary of State, Walter Mosley, along with members from the Dept of State and Empire State Development tour the work site on February 11. The Town inspected the work in progress on June 10. Reconstruction of the knee wall began on June 23 with the delivery of brick and initial masonry work. The Newberry Commons sign was placed on the structure and electrically connected on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

By early September only one year after initiating a dedicated drive to save the structure, the building has a new roof, it was structurally stable preventing collapse, remediated of mold and asbestos contamination in accordance with State requirements, had a new electrical system, a new colored sign and awning paying homage to its historical past, new brick work, entry doors, and new windows and frames. Finishing the interior of the commercial section will be funded through additional efforts to accommodate up to five (5) commercial enterprises.

Phase II of the project involves designing and constructing five (5) apartment dwellings in the rear of the structure. Bid invitations for architectural design were issued and awarded in the fall.

For now, however, the building has been saved and this DRI project is completed. This was nothing short of amazing!

The importance of placing this property once again as a productive piece of our recovering downtown economic puzzle cannot be stressed enough. The Town commends the brave and instrumental partnership established between the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA) and North Country Rural Development Coalition

(NRDC) and greatly thank the efforts of NRDC Executive Director, Nicole Justice Green, for her outstanding efforts and drive in taking a leadership role as well as to the NRDC staff to make this project happen. Additional thanks to TRA Board of Directors for their amazing work in acquiring and persistence in saving this property. This TRA/NRDC collaborative partnership and this success

NEVER would have happened without the actions taken by the Ticonderoga Town Board and without individuals stepping up to secure the required funding needed before NYS DRI funds reimburse the project. Some who did not know the whole story or who still refuse to acknowledge the facts did not agree with the Town Board's decision which paved the way for this project, but the Town Supervisor's and Town Board's duty is to do what is best for



*Façade work at 108 Montcalm Street.*



*Following stabilization at 108 Montcalm Street.*

the Town of Ticonderoga and its residents in total and not to individual egos or agendas. The importance and criticality of this project to the overall DRI downtown effort was never lost on this Town Board or the TRA Board of Directors.

### 3.3 St. Clair/Grove Flooding

**GOAL:** Mitigate St. Clair Flooding

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

As reported in the 2022 State of the Town report, the pooling of excessive storm water during heavy, consistent rain events has caused large buildup of water at the intersection of St. Clair Street and Grove Street for many years due to several factors. The Town's efforts to correct this have also occurred for many years but significant progress was made in 2023 and again in 2024 to alleviate the issue.

Lowe's retention pond upstream of the flooding area received greater attention in 2024. The Town continued to monitor this situation throughout 2025 and noticed no significant flooding. Town Code Enforcement continued to monitor and ensure Lowe's property management properly maintained the retention pond area throughout 2025. No signs of flooding were identified.

### 3.4 Bridge Infrastructure

**GOAL:** Montcalm Street Bridge Design

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The project to replace Montcalm Street bridge is a NYS DOT project which is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), State, and County offices. Utility work agreements were completed and approved in July. The first steps taken in 2025 involved bridge design.

The Town Supervisor worked with the Essex County Board of Supervisors and the Essex County DPW Superintendent on the bridge replacement project.

A stakeholder meeting was held on February 26, 2025, for those businesses most affected by the nearby construction and detours. This was lightly attended. The Town would like to thank the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce for aiding the Town in notifying all affected parties and for its participation in this critical meeting. Communicating correct information to the public regarding this project is critical. County work on this project will continue into 2026.

### 3.5 New Police Station

**GOAL:** Continue Police Department Renovation

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town continued in 2025 to work on renovating the former Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN) building at 102 Race Track Road into a permanent home for the Ticonderoga Police Department. This project significantly saves taxpayers the exorbitant cost of constructing a new facility or leasing space.

Minor demolition was completed in February. A Request for Proposal was issued in March for a consultant to develop the specification package for the next phase of work required (electrical, plumbing, construction). The Town awarded a contract to Cheslik Consulting in June for the



*Renovation status late-September.*



*New station lobby.*

engineering design and estimated costs for that next phase of construction. That engineering design was used to solicit an invitation to bid in August to obtain a prospective contractor to finish the general construction, plumbing, and electrical work on the structure. The Town Board awarded the contract to Gallo Construction in the amount of approximately \$359,000 (including closing costs) on August 21<sup>st</sup> with work to be completed by the end of November

2025. The Town Supervisor issued a notice to proceed to the contractor on September 5. Gallo began construction work around September 8, 2025.

Efforts began in September to review the cost of relocating all IT equipment (computers, police server, phones, communications lines, etc.) to the new location. In addition, the Town Board began investigating the cost for security. This included video surveillance, electronic door locks, and security alarms. Completion of these projects was required before department staff could

effectively operate from the new station. StoredTech, as the Town's IT consultant, completed most of these activities in November and December. A ribbon cutting was held on December 18.



*New station patrol room.*

Renovation costs by the end of 2025 amounted to approximately \$500,000, a significant savings over a \$6M - \$8M cost for a new structure. In addition to the tremendous cost savings in obtaining an existing structure versus new construction, the Town saved thousands of dollars through the donation of office equipment by generous organizations such as the

Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance, Ticonderoga Area Chamber of

Commerce, Ticonderoga VFW, and TrailNorth Federal Credit Union. Many private donations as well as in-kind work by town staff also contributed to the success of this project.

### 3.6 Airport Lighting

**GOAL:** Improve Airfield Lighting

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

A project within the airports master plan includes replacement of existing and installation of new runway edge lighting, taxiway edge lighting, runway end identifier light (REIL), and associated electrical. Design and construction constitute a multi-year project.

The Town submitted its FY '25 FAA grant application package for the Reconstruct Runway & Taxiway Lighting (Design) project for Ticonderoga Municipal Airport (4B6) in February. This project and the electrical vault project were combined into one grant application in April at the suggestion of the FAA.

### 3.7 Upgrade Electrical Vault

**GOAL:** Relocate Electrica Vault

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

A project within the airports master plan includes relocating the electrical vault from its current location within a wetland area to a more suitable area. Specific work will involve removal of the existing electrical vault with relocation of associated power and control equipment for Runway/Taxiway edge lighting, PAPI, REIL's and radio to a new vault. Replacement of distribution panel, electrical relays, radio controller, antenna and similar switchgear is expected. The new vault will be generally west of the existing vault and consist of a precast concrete modular structure. Design will conform with FAA requirements.

The Town filed FAA paperwork in February and was awaiting final FAA approval of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA was delayed because the coordinating FAA office only had one environmentalist and that individual was terminated. Once the EA is approved, the Town will submit for the FAA design grant, design, and bid the project. This project and the airport lighting project were combined into one grant application in April at the suggestion of the FAA. At this time, it is expected that the Town would pursue the construction grant in early 2026.

### 3.8 Improve 1888 Building

**GOAL:** Investigate Funding

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Town coordinated with the Heritage Museum & Visitor Center in 2025 to brainstorm potential funding avenues for building improvement projects for the 1888 building, the former administrative offices of Ticonderoga Pulp & Paper Company, a town-owned structure pm the National Historic Register. The building was an early project proposal for the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) but was not approved by the State.

Several projects for the structure include new grading around the structure, possible heating, window replacement, and brick work. Town capital reserve funding for structures is currently in use for the renovation of the new police department. Some potential donors were identified as being able to help fund individual projects. The Town would advertise any request for proposals (RFPs) on all work as this is town property. This is an activity which will most likely transition across multiple fiscal years.

### 3.9 Other Improvements

**GOAL:** Add Airport Picnic Table**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Airport continues to increase its capabilities with the erection of a new privately owned hangar and now annual Fly-in and Open House. To better accommodate airport operations and events, portable bathroom facilities were moved within the fence line and picnic tables installed outside the pilot office.

**GOAL:** Improve Recreational Park**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town, volunteers, and donors continue to improve our recreational park and other amenities used for recreation. The Town donated \$30,000 of ARPA funding to improve facilities. Several projects occurred in 2025 to include:

- The completion of Field #4 thanks to donations of time and materials. Fill was added and leveled in this area at the end of 2024. Grass was planted. This field will be used for T-Ball and other sporting events/practices.
- New field work, fence, and batting cages at Field #4.
- A 16'x12' concession stand was approved by the Parks & Recs Committee, purchased by NRDC, and installed at Field #1. This is on skids for easy movement.
- The Town added a gaga-ball pit in July.
- In September, work began on constructing new dugouts. This project was generously donated by Avery Energy.
- Pickleball courts were resurfaced and lined (see Section 8.5). Funding for this effort was shared by grant funding through NRDC and the Parks & Recreation budget. Patty Hogan provided many volunteer hours to enable the successful completion of this project.



*New Field #4 and dugouts.*



*New pickleball & tennis courts work.*

- The Town Highway Department installed two new bleachers at Field #3 during the summer. These low-rise bleachers fit the limited level ground surrounding this field.
- NRDC provided funding to purchase an additional chiller for the ice-skating rink which expanded the rink to full size.

**GOAL:** Level/Pave Mt. Defiance Public Parking Lot**STATUS: NOT COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Town Board discussed in 2024 the task of leveling and paving the public parking lot located at the corner of Defiance Street and The Portage. This was originally park of the old Delaware and Hudson Railroad right of way and Academy Station location and remains as town property. There were insufficient time and manpower to complete this activity in 2025.

**GOAL:** Adopt Road Between Defiance Street & The Portage**STATUS: NOT COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Town Board discussed in 2024 the task of adopting the short roadway connecting The Portage and Defiance Street as official town road. This was originally park of the old Delaware and Hudson Railroad right of way and remains as town property. There were insufficient time and manpower to complete this activity in 2025, however, Town Highway did fill in the potholes during November with gravel to allow safe travel.



Old railroad right of way and parking lot.

## 4.0 Coordination Efforts

Coordination is critical to the successful implementation of any activity and frequent, inclusive communication remains a major core value for this administration. The Town Supervisor continued to ensure email and phone communication was frequent on issues that required coordination among all relevant organizations in 2025. The Supervisor supported all organizational meetings with town partners when they did not conflict with town obligations. These included coordination with emergency services, ex-officio obligations, after-hour TACC mixers, annual events, and other internal and external requirements. Specific partnership communication metrics may be found in section 5.0. It is highly recommended that future administrations continue these coordination efforts as they are critical for Ticonderoga's success.

### 4.1 Ex-Officio Responsibilities

**GOAL:** Participate as Ex-Officio

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Town Supervisor is an ex-officio member of the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) Board, the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership (TMSP) Board, and the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA) Board. Prior town administration support to these organizations was not provided or provided in a limited capacity. The current administration continued to consider these partnerships as critical and vital links to Ticonderoga's successful revitalization and economic development efforts. As was accomplished in 2022-2024, the Town Supervisor continued to attend these organizational meetings and events, shared information, and coordinated with their annual activities in 2025.

The Town is pleased to report the great success associated with the collaborative partnership between the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA) and the North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC). The Town maintained its part of this collaborative effort throughout 2025.

### 4.2 Ticonderoga Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners

**GOAL:** Attend Fire District Meetings

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Many do not realize that the Ticonderoga Fire District is not a municipal department of the Town of Ticonderoga. As a separate taxing district, the Fire District provides a budget to the Town of Ticonderoga each fiscal year in accordance with its charter and the Town collects this levy on behalf of the fire district. The Supervisor recognizes the importance of cooperating and partnering with the Fire District if for nothing else, situational awareness. The Town Supervisor

coordinated with the Fire District, via email during 2025. The Town Supervisor attended meetings and District budget hearings as a member of the public and occasionally provided input when requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners on more than 40 occasions during 2024. However, the Town Supervisor suspended his meeting attendance when the Fire District moved meetings back into the fire department structure which was identified as closed to the public for a health safety risk due to the recent mold infestation remediation.

The Supervisor contacted the Fire District Fire Commission Chair in October 2024 requesting a meeting about the building's health rating for public access to resume meeting attendance. The Chair was unable to support a scheduled meeting to discuss the subject. The Supervisor reached out again in December 2024. The Chair again was unable to attend the scheduled meeting date/time. The Supervisor reengaged in January 2025, but no meeting occurred. At this point, the Supervisor left the meeting schedule with the Fire District. No fire commission meetings were attended by the Town Supervisor due to the failure of the Fire District to assure the Supervisor that the public was not at risk by attending meetings in a structure which was listed as not open to the public.



*Current fire station will be removed.*

The Town supported the Fire District requests to host informational videos on the upcoming actions by the District to remove and replace the current fire station. The Fire District was not successful in an October election on the proposed new fire station. It is hoped that this will be resolved.

### **4.3 Silver Bay Association**

**GOAL:** Continue Coordination

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town continued cooperative efforts with the Silver Bay Association in 2025. The main topic of a potential partnership between Silver Bay and the Town for youth activities involved discussion at the Youth Commission meetings and Town Board meetings. Nothing further

resulted from these discussions. The Town will continue to operate its after school and summer programs as efforts of the Town.

#### 4.4 External Communication

**GOAL:** New York State Coordination

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

It is critical to relate our challenges and status to representatives of the Governor's office. The Town Supervisor coordinated with Alison Webbinaro, the Governor's Regional Representative for the North Country Region, on issues including getting Ticonderoga registered as a Pro-Housing Community. The Town also provided status for this office on the Chilson/Eagle Lake water project to the Governor's representative and to State Senator, Dan Stec.

#### 4.5 Recognizing & Supporting Partners

**GOAL:** Recognize Significant Partner Milestones

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town of Ticonderoga appreciates all our partners be they economic organizations, businesses, or individuals.

It is critical that we recognize

individuals, events, and organizations when they reach critical milestones or when they provide outstanding services to their community.



*Star Trek 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary proclamation.*



*TACC 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary proclamation.*



Golf Corporation – 100 Years.

This year, the town recognized the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Star Trek Original Series Set Tour which brings thousands of visitors to the Ticonderoga area, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the



Mike Edson – 50 years.

Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce which is instrumental in our revitalization efforts and which provides invaluable aid to our businesses, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ticonderoga Golf Corporation which now comprises a restaurant, country club, and enviable golf course, the anniversary of a local resident who has been a part of the Fort Ticonderoga Fife & Drum corps and celebrated 50 years of service in 2025, and recognition for Joyce Cooper whose eight years of support to the Ticonderoga Town Board ended on December 31, 2025.



Joyce Cooper – Thank you.

Joyce Cooper is one of our valued Town Council members who ended her term on the Ticonderoga Town Board at the end of December. The Town Supervisor presented her with a proclamation for her eight years of service and sacrifice to the town and declared December 12, 2025, as Joyce Cooper Day in Ticonderoga. Joyce contributed much to Ticonderoga: first president of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association, founding member of the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership (TMSP), Ticonderoga Kiwanis member, Carillon Garden Club member, served as Deputy Town Supervisor, Vice-Chair Economic Development Committee, Co-Chair of the Buildings & Grounds/Parks &

Recs Committee, Co-Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Town Council representative to the Black Watch Memorial Library Board, and so many other volunteer activities in town. Joyce is also a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient of Ticonderoga High School. Joyce Cooper demonstrated courage, vision and integrity, with a willingness to listen to all issues, modifying her position when required, making the hard decisions demanded of her position, and always serving the best interests of the town and people of Ticonderoga.

The Town Supervisor also supported County events as a representative from the town of Ticonderoga. The Supervisor again attended the 2026 opening of the Essex County Fair in Westport.

## 4.6 Holiday Train Communication

**GOAL:** Reestablish a Stop

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

Through conversations with the local food pantry, it became apparent that continued contributions from the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Holiday Train could aid the food pantry's efforts and goals. These contributions ceased when the train no longer stopped in Ticonderoga because of a continued lack of support and participation from the community. The Town Supervisor contacted CPKC in 2024 to obtain contact for the Holiday Train and begin discussions to return Ticonderoga as a stop. The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce accepted the task of coordinating with the Central School District. Once accomplished, the Town will assemble a proposal and submit it to the railroad. It may require a year or more to get Ticonderoga back into the holiday schedule. No activity occurred on this project in 2025. In 2025, the Town and Essex County provided donated food to the Ticonderoga Food Pantry.



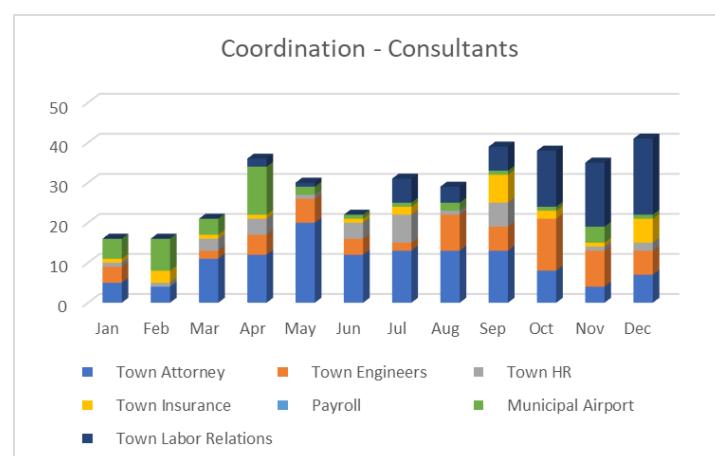
*Holiday train.*

## 4.7 Consultant Coordination

**GOAL:** Maintain Professional Consultants

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town has several consultants who aid the town with its many duties and obligations. These include but are not limited to legal consultation, human resource and employment issues, municipal airport operations and FAA coordination, labor relations and collective bargaining issues, health and liability insurance, town engineering, and payroll services. Figure 4-1 depicts the amount of coordination during 2025.



*FIGURE 4-1*

## 5.0 Resident & Staff Communication

Communication has been a key goal of this administration since day one. This section reviews specific communication tools used by the Town Supervisor to communicate and receive information and news to/from residents. A major element of effective communication involves allowing the public to have access to their leadership and leadership keeping the residents informed on what is occurring in their town – good or bad.

The Town Supervisor should be available to listen to residents' concerns and address their issues. Phone calls should be answered, emails promptly returned, and an open-door policy implemented.

Additional communication occurs in the town offices each day between staff and leadership on a variety of issues. Metrics comprise an excellent method to track not only the volume of communication but also the responsiveness of the Town Supervisor. The following metrics demonstrate the amount of activity in 2025 regarding communication.



### 5.1 Walk-in Visits & Appointments

**GOAL:** Enable Walk-in Visits & Appointments

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Walk-in visits include unplanned and non-scheduled appointments where residents or other individuals arrive unexpectedly wishing to speak with the Town Supervisor. All walk-ins were welcomed at any time unless the Supervisor was engaged in another activity. In this case, the resident or individual was provided with a mutually agreeable time in which to return.

Scheduled meetings between the Supervisor and residents (or others) allow for dedicated

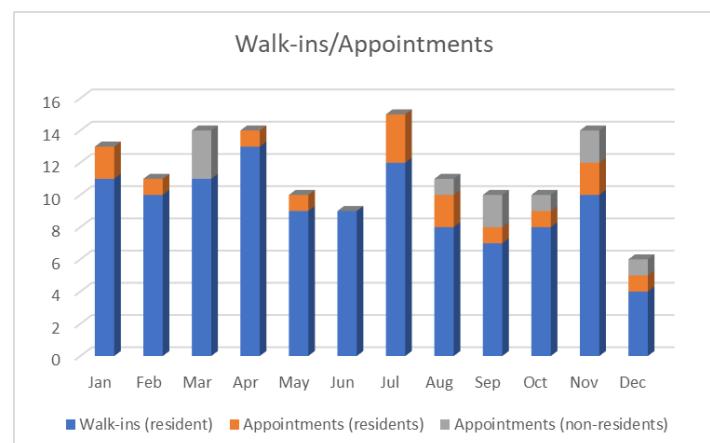


FIGURE 5-1

time to discuss more lengthy issues and aid in better scheduling the Supervisor's and the resident's time. Figure 5-1 indicates the number of walk-in visits and appointments during 2025.

## 5.2 Phone Calls/Emails/Messaging

### GOAL: Return Communication

#### STATUS: COMPLETED

It has been the policy of this administration to promptly return phone calls and emails. Most are returned immediately. Some at the end of the day or the following day. Some communication comes to the Supervisor via social media messages and is returned as soon as practical.

Figure 5-2 depicts the metrics associated with the volume of resident phone calls received and those which were required to be returned. Some calls are answered directly while others were recorded when out of the office and then returned.

Figure 5-3 depicts the metrics associated with the volume of email and social media incoming communications and responses for 2025.

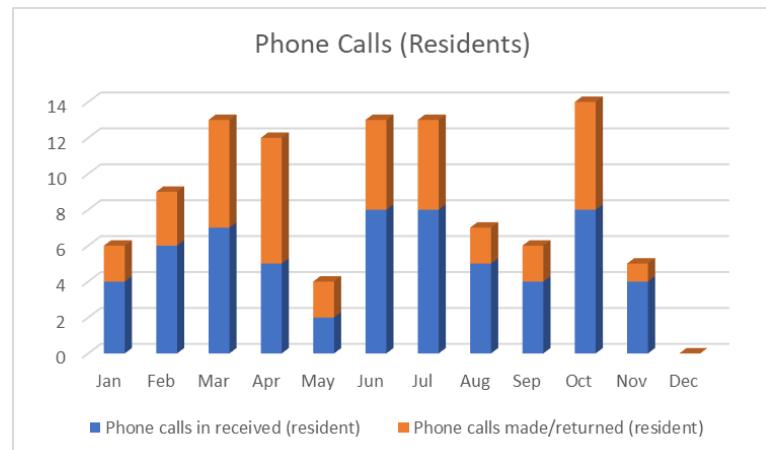


FIGURE 5-2

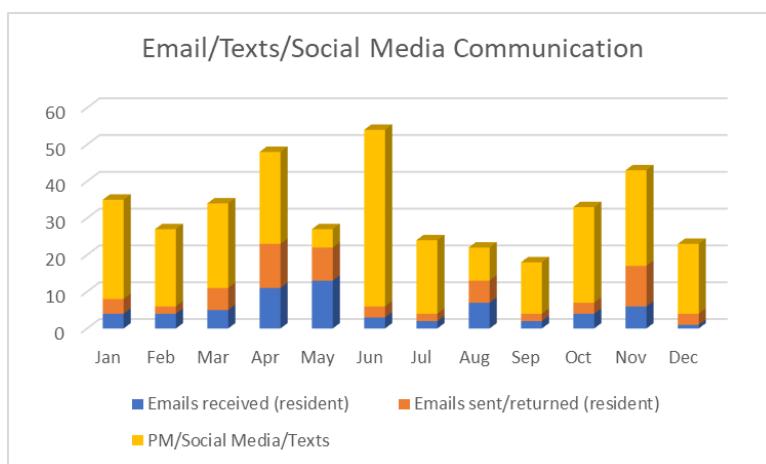


FIGURE 5-3

## 5.3 Partnership Communication

### GOAL: Communicate with Partners

#### STATUS: COMPLETED

Communication with the Town's partners, who for the most part are also town residents, is critical for the success of town wide initiatives, endeavors, and goals. The Town has many partners including those in business, economic development and revitalization, utility providers, county and state government organizations and officials, media representatives, educational providers, and other areas.

Figures 5-4 and 5-5 identifies these partners as well as provides the metrics associated with the volume of communications in 2025.

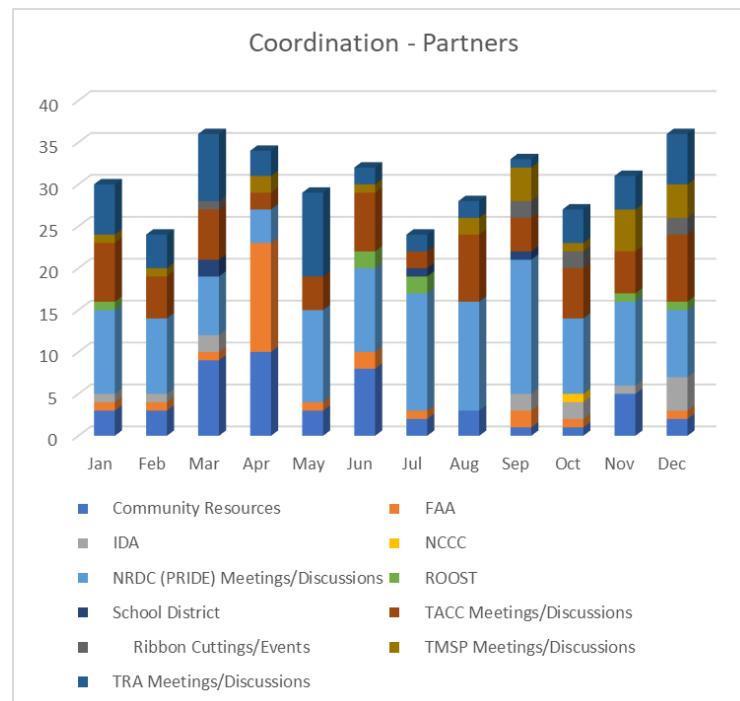


FIGURE 5-4

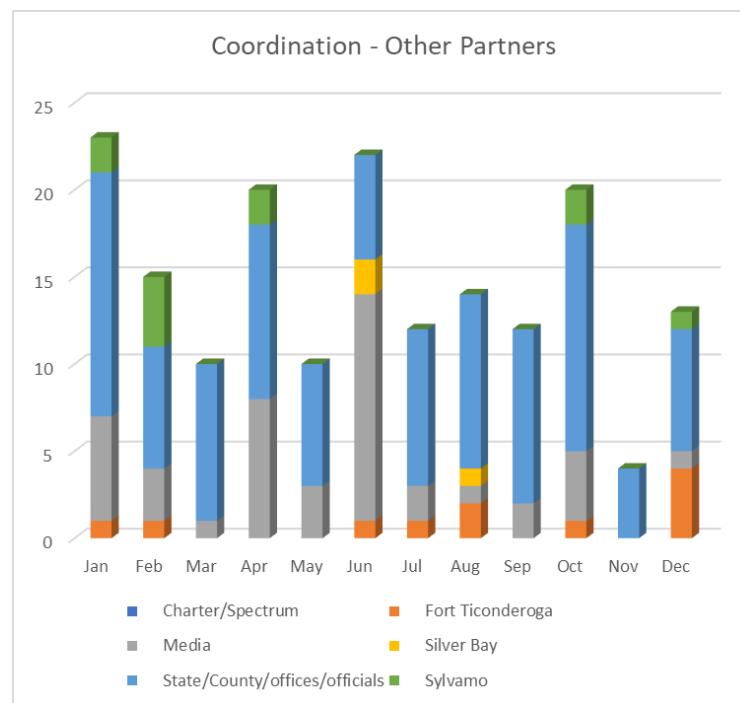


FIGURE 5-5

## 5.5 Town Facebook Page

### GOAL: Facebook Page Posts

#### STATUS: COMPLETED

Facebook is both a useful communication tool and a challenge, but the benefits for disseminating and receiving information cannot be ignored. The Town removed its Facebook page in 2021, but it was reinstated in April 2022 by the incoming Town Supervisor and has been an effective tool during 2025. This page disseminates official town information and notifications including meeting dates and changes, closure information, weather warnings, county information, etc. It is not a platform for discussion.



FIGURE 5-6

In addition to the Town Facebook page, the Town Supervisor also communicates using a second Facebook page which provides information of interest from the Supervisor such as regular reports of activities and local town issues through the “From the Supervisor’s Desk” series. This will be discontinued in 2026 by the outgoing Supervisor. It is highly recommended that future Supervisors continue to communicate to residents using this tool.

Facebook has proven to be an effective tool even though the audience may be somewhat limited due to the availability of the platform to some residents. Its continued use in 2026 will be at the discretion of the new Town Supervisor.

## 5.6 Town Website

### GOAL: Maintain Website

#### STATUS: COMPLETED

The town website is an important tool for communicating with the public. The Town Supervisor regularly updates the site with town board meeting agendas and minutes comprising the most frequent information updated. The event schedule and important information from other sources (County, etc.) are also updated frequently.

The Town Supervisor continued to maintain the town website during 2025. The Supervisor continued to support the Police Department and the Black Watch Library in posting their information on to website and making that information available to the public. A major issue

occurred in May which rendered the website unavailable to town systems. This was correct through coordination with the Town's website and IT providers.

During May through August of 2025, the Town changed its website and email extensions from .org extensions to .gov extensions in accordance with NYS guidelines. See Section 10.7 for more information.

## 5.7 Daily Updates & Discussions

**GOAL:** Internal Discussions/Direction

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

A considerable amount of communication and decisions occur in the town offices each day on a multitude of issues/topics so the Town Supervisor must be present during regular business hours to participate in these discussions with residents, staff, consultants, department heads, council members, organizational partners, business owners, and others. Many of these discussions involve staff providing input and seeking direction or clarification, providing status input regarding ongoing events or activities, discussions with individual board members on their projects or current issues, budget discussions, financial issues, personnel issues, highway activities, committee action items, etc. Figure 5-7 depicts the approximate number of such inquiries and discussions on significant issues over the last year.

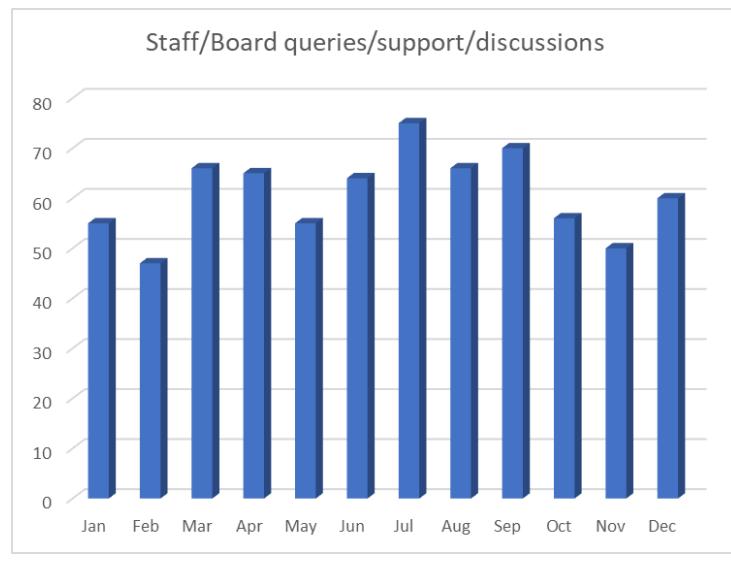


FIGURE 5-7

## 5.8 Public Meetings

### GOAL: Ensure Open Meetings

#### STATUS: COMPLETED

The Town adheres to the New York State Open Meetings Law. Residents are welcomed and encouraged to observe their local government in action.

Town Board meetings and committee meetings are open to the public and are held at times which best accommodate the greatest majority of the public while limiting staff overtime costs. Regular Town Board meetings and some committee meetings offer a public comment period subject to discussion and time limitation guidelines which are typical in the municipal industry (see the link to these guidelines on the town website). Other board meetings do not accommodate public comment but still allow observation in accordance with NYS law. The public may also provide written comments to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the minutes for any town meeting.

Figures 5-8 and 5-9 provide the metrics associated with the volume of government meetings in 2025 in which the Town Supervisor was in attendance. Additional meetings may have occurred but could not include the Supervisor due to scheduling conflicts.

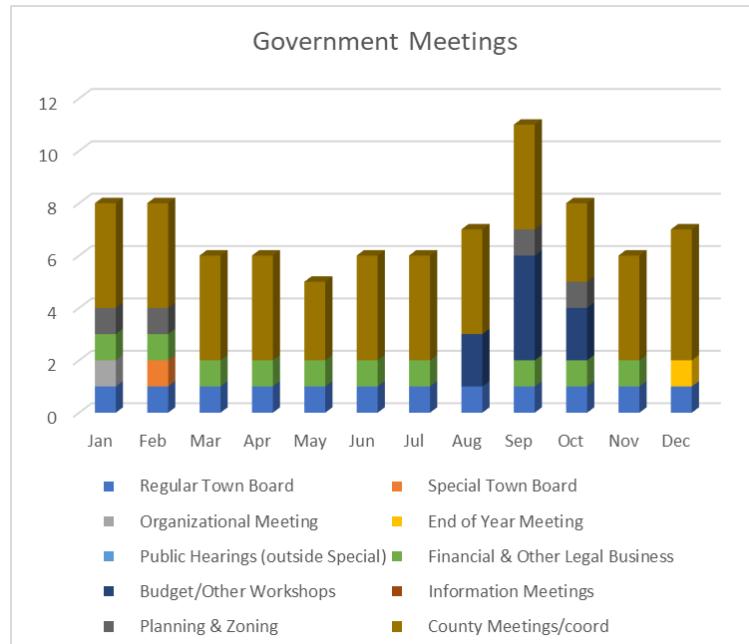


FIGURE 5-8

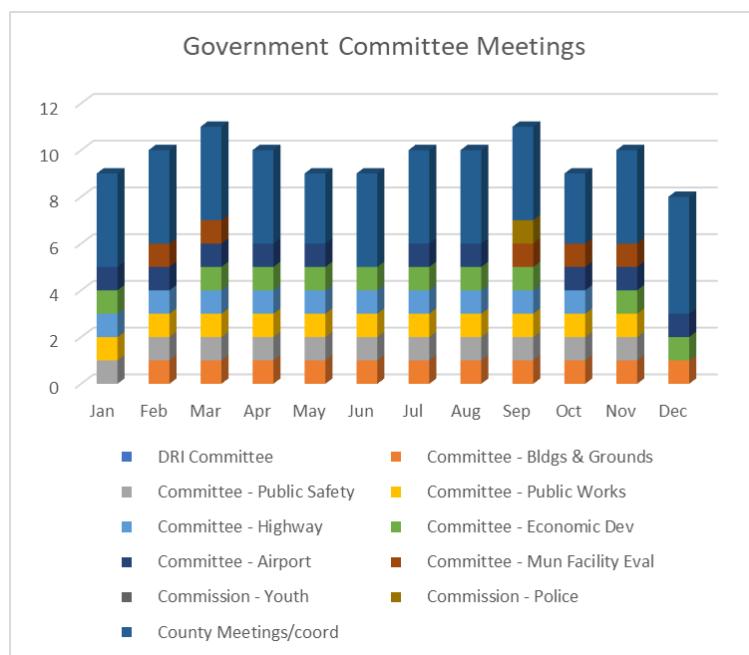


FIGURE 5-9

## 5.9 Community Visibility

### GOAL: Community Participation

### STATUS: COMPLETED

Another form of communication and access to town government occurs when elected officials are seen in the streets of the town and participating in community events. The Town Supervisor maintained this form of access and communication in 2025. The Town Supervisor's availability using this method was successful in allowing residents to take the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Participation included several fund raising BBQs among multiple organizations, the annual TMSP StreetFest, 2025 Extravaganza, Independence Day activities, FallFest, Annual Car Show, OctoberFest, weekly Farmer's Market, Festival Guild summer concerts, Essex County Fair opening ceremonies, Festival of the Trees, Ticonderoga, Small Business Saturday, TACC Community Appreciation awards, Irishman of the Year, Sylvamo Community Advisory Council, Ticonderoga Central School District board meetings, Elks Flag Day ceremony, Ti Alumni Awards, Ti Art Gallery exhibitions, Small Business Saturday, Annual Holiday Shop & Dine, TACC Annual Fundraiser, annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt, and others.



Town Supervisor Mark Wright at mural dedication.

In addition, the Town Supervisor issued five (5) proclamations in 2025 to honor or commemorate historic events and individuals. These included the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Star Trek Original Series

Set Tour, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of the incorporation of the Ticonderoga Golf Corporation, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mike Edson's career as a Fort Ticonderoga Fife & Drum member, and Joyce Cooper's eight years of support to the Ticonderoga Town Board.



TACC Community Appreciation Dinner Awards.



## 6.0 Major Capital Projects

### 6.1 Chilson/Eagle Lake Water

**GOAL:** Drill Test Wells

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The current town noncompliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 has existed for many decades through multiple Supervisors, but the project to bring the water system into compliance was very active in 2025 with a goal to satisfy a 2018 Consent Decree with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Environmental



Gooseneck.

Protection Agency (EPA), and New York State Department of Health (DOH), to remove Ticonderoga from the filtration avoidance criteria that existed since 1991. Compliance equates with either bringing Gooseneck Pond into compliance as a municipal water source or abandoning it and disconnecting out of district water users from that source. Prior and current Town Boards made the decision that fixing Gooseneck is cost prohibitive and unaffordable for taxpayers and residents due to the limited number of residents who would be required to pay for this project and the fact that they formerly expressed a desire to not become a new water district (the only method by which a municipality can supply water).

A small minority of residents disagreed with the town elected officials, engineers, Town Attorney, and the NYS Department of Health on the approach and professional analysis in terms of using Gooseneck water. Although stating many times that a petition containing 700 signatures was provided to the Town requesting the Town to only utilize Lake George and Gooseneck Pond as primary water sources, only 240 signatures were turned into the Town Clerk on June 9, 2022, at the regular town board meeting. Of those 240 signatures, approximately 59 were not signatures (printed names). In approximately 13 instances, two names appeared to have been signed by the same individual (identical handwriting). In the case of 8 individuals, a phone number was provided instead of the required address and approximately 45 individuals were not listed on registered voter records. More importantly, none of the petition pages were valid and did not contain witness statements, were not signed by a witness, and were not dated by a witness.

Town elected officials and consultants pivoted several times when presented with engineering and funding challenges. Activities late in 2023 and into 2025 included a process by which the Town would conduct test wells for a future municipal well system. However, efforts to execute that solution were challenged in October 2023 when three residents filed a lawsuit against the Town, Department of Justice, and New York State Department of Health. This halted any use of grant monies to provide a feasible, affordable, safe, and compliant drinking water solution and would hold up engineering work for approximately 8 months eventually pushing test well work into 2026. A federal court ruled on June 3 and granted the Town's request to dismiss the case with prejudice stating, "...a closer inspection reveals that this case is just an improper attempt to collaterally attack a settlement agreement adopted in an earlier dispute between the defendants in this case."

Discussions between the Town, federal, and state officials continued in 2025. In June, the EPA informally notified the Town that they were comfortable with the Town's continued efforts and did not plan any enforcement penalties. The Town hired a hydrogeologist and met with potential property owners in April and May while the Town continued to work with DOJ and DOH on an alternative approach to providing water to the Chilson/Eagle Lake region. Affected residents must approve a district before the municipality can legally provide water.

In August, the Town provided a statement updating all residents on the project status stating, *"The Town continues the process of identifying lawful drinking water sources for the Chilson and Eagle Lake drinking water users. Sites have been identified, and the hydrogeologist is continuing its review of the sites. It is expected that test wells will be drilling in the coming months. The results will then form the basis for review and consideration by the Town Board and the public. While the current June 2025 deadline has not yet been formally extended in U.S. District Court, the Town has been advised by the EPA that the EPA will not pursue enforcement actions against the Town at this time given the Town's good faith efforts to pursue lawful and affordable drinking water alternatives. The Town Board continues its efforts to find good, safe and affordable sources of drinking water for the Chilson and Eagle Lake drinking water users."*

Although this is a daily working issue for our engineer, water department, and legal team members, the Town also continued to provide monthly water meeting minutes which are attached to each regular town board meeting minutes.

## 6.2 La Chute River Walking Trail Extension

**GOAL:** Complete Trail Extension

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Ticonderoga received a NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant to connect the lower and upper trail locations. The path was designed to follow a specific route, avoiding a protected wetland, and terminate at the top of the hill near the spoils area off Lake George Avenue. Reale Construction began work in 2024



*La Chute River Walking Trail Ribbon cutting.*



*La Chute River Walking Trail Extension.*

contractor, MJ Engineering, on June 25, 2025. The need for minor seeding in a few areas was required. The project closed in July. A ribbon cutting was conducted on September 24, 2025.

and was completed in December of that year, but with a punch list of items for review and completion in 2025. This year, significant erosion and seeding had to be addressed. Re-seeding occurred in Spring 2025. The Town inspected the work with its

## 6.3 WPCP and Collection System Upgrades

**GOAL:** Bond and Fund

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Town continues pursuing a major project to upgrade the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) and Collection System. Ventilation heat systems have reached their useful life and are due for upgrades and replacement to meet existing codes and standards. The WPCP system also requires upgrades to various other treatment systems. The Town Board passed resolutions in 2024 authorizing the design, construction, and funding of the project. This is a projected \$35M project and will require significant funding through grants and zero interest loans.

The Town also issued a request for qualifications from New York State licensed professional engineering firms or licensed engineering teams to provide comprehensive design and

engineering services through construction for the replacement of the water distribution main along Amherst Avenue. The selected firm will be responsible for delivering all necessary planning, design, permitting, bidding, construction administration, and project closeout services. This was issued in August and resulted in five (5) responses. The Town and Essex County Office of Community Resources interviewed the top three proposals. This activity will continue into 2026 and beyond.



## 6.4 Water Meter Project

**GOAL:** Complete Design Project

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Town is required by Permit Conditions No. 20 and No. 25 of Water Withdrawal Permit No. 12,414 from New York State to have water meters installed in its water district. MJ Engineering was selected in December 2024 as the design engineer on this project. The Town signed the design contract with MJ Engineering in May 2025. The NYS DEC extended the compliance deadline for the installation of water meters from May 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027. This extension is an enforceable component of Water Withdrawal Permit.

The Town began planning a public outreach program in October to provide information to town residents on why the project was required among other information. Direct mailers, social media, and a public meeting were planned for early 2026. Information boards were planned for the Community Building, Black Watch Library, and Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce. The Town established a location on the town website for updated information.

Final design is scheduled for April 2026 with bidding around May and construction to be completed by December 31, 2027.

## 6.5 Airport Apron Expansion

**GOAL:** Initiate Design Phase

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town began an effort, partially funded through the FAA's Airport Improvement Plan (AIP) grant program (90%) and New York State funding (5%), to increase the apron size at the Ticonderoga Municipal Airport. The first part of this capital project is the design phase to expand the existing main apron approximately 2,300 square yards, including associated aircraft tie-downs, drainage, and marking.

Grant paperwork was submitted in August 2024. The Ticonderoga Airport 2024 AIP contract was executed in June 2025. The Town's airport consultant, Passero Associates, is developing the design. The estimated total cost for design is \$151,934.00 of which the FAA funds 90% or \$136,740 with NYS funding 5% or \$7,597. A follow-on contract will be let for construction, also funded 90% by the FAA and 5% by NYS.

## 7.0 Other Town Projects & Issues

### 7.1 FAA GPS Nighttime Landing Restriction

**GOAL:** Clear Additional Tree Obstructions

**STATUS: NOT COMPLETED**

The FAA placed a GPS nighttime landing restriction on the Ticonderoga Municipal Airport (4B6) in June 2015 due to obstructions. The Town physically removed the obstruction (tree) in the Fall of 2015 and in the FAA's Obstacle database in 2022. In 2023, the FAA informed the town of additional tree obstructions that must be removed. These were identified by the Airport Committee in September which coordinated with Sylvamo Paper upon whose property these are located. The Airport Committee worked with Sylvamo to remove the obstructions in 2024 and 2025, but this task is not yet complete.

The Committee will continue to work with Sylvamo in 2026 to remove the trees affecting proper clearance.

### 7.2 Improvements Using ARPA Funding

**GOAL:** Obligate ARPA Funding

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town of Ticonderoga received \$545,297.27 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding related to lost revenue due to COVID impacts. These funds included \$487,793.41 from the federal government and \$57,503.86 from Essex County. The United States Treasury Department required these funds to be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2025. The Town of Ticonderoga obligated all funding by the required timeline using the funds to supplement direct lost revenue for some organizations and making public safety and infrastructure improvements. Projects included:

- Chilson/Eagle Lake Preliminary Design Review
- Recreational Field Infrastructure Improvement
- Community Building Emergency Generator
- Chilson Chapel Revenue Loss
- Public Sidewalk Infrastructure Replacement
- La Chute Trail Extension Infrastructure Improvement
- Infrastructure Tree Replacement
- Chilson Volunteer Fire Department Revenue Loss

- Community Building Security Measure Improvements
- Police Equipment K9 Program
- Ambulance District Map Plan Report
- Police Department Equipment/Facility

### 7.3 Support Local

**GOAL:** Obtain Sylvamo Paper for Municipality

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town of Ticonderoga was determined to support our local paper mill, Sylvamo, by either obtaining municipal paper supply from the Ticonderoga mill directly or through bulk purchase of Hammermill products from a distributor. It was important that the Town use only local mill products. The Town Supervisor contacted the mill manager in October 2024 to begin investigating how to accomplish this goal. In November 2024, a Sylvamo sales representative contacted the Town Supervisor to find a solution to service the Town of Ticonderoga with products made at the Ticonderoga Mill as the mill does not normally conduct direct sales with municipalities other than through a bid process and then having a distributor provide the product. In December 2024, the sales representative received approval to donate a pallet of paper to the Town of Ticonderoga, and it would be a product that was manufactured at the Ticonderoga facility as well. We were grateful for this and would have happily paid for the product as that is how important it was for the Town to use a local mill product. Sylvamo delivered a pallet of paper in February 2025.



## 8.0 Activities & Projects

### 8.1 Youth Programs

**GOAL:** Execute Summer & After School Programs

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Finding sufficient labor for town positions and activities was a less significant challenge in 2025 thanks to the many volunteers who stepped up to join the program. We were quite successful in obtaining the minimum number of applications to ensure the success of the summer program, beach support, and after school programs. The Town's Recreational Supervisor, in-house HR representative and other town staff took charge and managed the entire 2025 program. The Town worked early this year getting the message out to residents who were interested in summer employment for the summer camp and food program. Approximately 15 town summer staff (10 summer camp counselors, 1 Director, 1 Assistant Director, 1 Health Director, 2 cooks) supported approximately 102 summer program participants. Another 4 lifeguards (including 1 head and 1 assistant head lifeguard) ensured the safety of beach goers this summer. We had a slight challenge when two lifeguards decided not to work shortly before the summer beach kickoff. Approximately 7 staff assistants supported the two 2025 After School program sessions. After School program attendees included 46 from Jan-May and 27 in the fall session.

The Town is extremely grateful to those individuals who stepped forward to provide oversight and leadership for these programs. Budgeted funds support these programs; however, the success of these programs relies on the generosity of residents to step forward and support these programs as counselors, cooks, and activity attendants. We cannot do this without you!

### 8.2 Skating Rink

**GOAL:** Obtain Chiller

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town skating rink at the corner of Tower Avenue and Burgoyne Road is a popular recreational resource for residents and visitors and enables Ticonderoga to continue a path to become a 4-season destination. Ice chiller components arrived on December 27, 2024, and were immediately



*New rink size completed.*

assembled over a 2-day period. Additional electrical components and work were required. The rink began its 2024-2025 season on January 21, 2025, a bit later than planned. It was in full operation for Ticonderoga's End of Winter Carnival.

During the season, North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC) sponsored and helped support the rink maintenance and operation along with Ash Alexander. The Town's Parks and Recs Department staff will be placed in charge of the operation for upcoming seasons.

Iron Sleek arrived in Ticonderoga in April to uninstall the components for summer storage. The boards were modified to fit a larger rink size of 60 x 100 with the inclusion of a new 4<sup>th</sup> chiller and boards generously donated to the project by Iron Sleek. The boards were permanently anchored to the pavement.

Iron Sleek returned in December to set up the rink for the 2025-2026 season. NRDC funded improvements to the warming shed through a grant. NRDC also purchased a maintenance contract which is in place until 2027 for set up and breakdown of the rink. Indoor storage of ice equipment is still an issue that needs to be addressed.

### **8.3 Youth Programs**

**GOAL:** Ga-Ga Ball

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Buildings and Grounds/Parks and Recs Committee discussed the introduction of Ga-Ga Ball as a new activity for older youth. Gaga, Hebrew for 'touch, touch', is a variant of dodgeball that is played in a gaga "pit". The game combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping, with the objective of being the last person standing. Players hit the ball with each other with their hands and are eliminated if the ball strikes them on or below the knee. The game can be played by a group of individual players or with teams, as well as in one-on-one matches.

Committee members recommended approval in March for the purchase of a Ga-Ga pit. Members took a field trip to examine proposed locations for the equipment looking at Recreational Park and near the skating rink to name a few. This was installed in the Recreational Park in June.

## 8.4 Senior Programs

### **GOAL:** Senior Bus Repair

### **STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Senior Bus required an engine repair which was completed by Essex County Department of Public Works (DPW). Concerned about a long interruption in service for our senior population, the Town entered into an agreement with Essex County for the loan of one of their buses. Approved by the Board, this agreement allowed a current town employee holding a CDL rating to provide a continued senior bus service to seniors.



*County senior bus loaner.*

### **GOAL:** Senior Bus Holiday Program

### **STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce and North Country Rural Development Coalition approach the Town with a proposal to use the senior bus to bring seniors and qualified disabled within the hamlet who are not on the parade of lights route into the downtown area to view the parade and conduct holiday shopping during the annual Shop & Dine event. In addition, the proposal included an area light tour in the immediate neighborhood area for the same individuals during the week of December 15-19. The Town has a policy for the use of the senior bus and any deviation from that policy must be approved by the Town Board. The Board enthusiastically supported this idea and greatly thanks NRDC and TACC for thinking outside the box to include our seniors and qualified disabled during the holiday season.

## 8.5 Recreation Upgrades

### **GOAL:** Rehabilitate Pickleball/Tennis Courts

### **STATUS: COMPLETED**

Two of three tennis/pickleball courts were repaired in June/July 2025. Pickleball is a very popular all-seasonal sport, and Ticonderoga hopes to capture additional players and possibly even tournaments to help impact our economy and answer the demand of the public. Rehabilitation began in late June. Work included repairing cracks and resurfacing as well as restriping the courts. This project was funded through Parks & Recs funding (\$12,600) in the Town and with a grant (\$18,500) secured by NRDC. Many thanks to Council Member Joyce Cooper and resident Patty

Hogan who work with NRDC Executive Director, Nicole Justice Green, to spearhead this project. Heavy duty portable nets were purchased to eliminate cracks caused by the permanent net posts.

**GOAL:** Provide Field #4 w/Water

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

A discussion about providing field #4 with water was discussed at the June Parks and Recs Committee meeting. The Town Supervisor informed the Water/Wastewater Superintendent of this issue at the June Public Works Committee meeting. Available piping was on hand, and the Water/Wastewater Department provided their services to run the water line being careful to observe the environmental issues and restrictions associated with the area. The line was installed in late July.



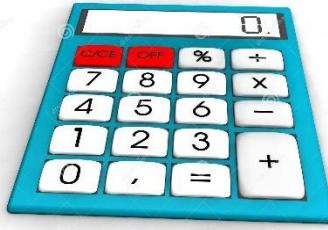
## 8.6 Historical Markers

**GOAL:** Create Historic Marker Database

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The need for a list of all historical markers within the town was often a topic of conversation during committee meetings. The list within the town historian office was insufficient, dated, and incomplete. The Town Supervisor designed and created a new list in 2025 using existing data and maps, historical online sites, and field survey work. This list is Excel-based and includes three sections – Historical Signs & Plaques, Monuments & Markers, and Historical Structures. Each section contains data including a photo of the object, name, latitude and longitude, text location, name of the entity which erected it, date erected, condition, and a description. The database contains approximately 171 historic sites and markers.

## 9.0 Budget & Finance

**BUDGET**

### 9.1 Annual Budget

**GOAL:** Scrutinize Budget**STATUS: COMPLETED**

A major financial goal remains the close examination of the town budget, looking for ways to better refine the expenditure and revenues thereby eliminating excessive taxation which has the potential to build an unnecessarily high fund balance. This year's efforts in the construction of the proposed 2026 budget were no exception. Budget preparation began in August. The Town conducted eight (8) public budget workshops this year. No members of the public attended the meetings.

The Town Board, Town Clerk, department heads, and staff reviewed the budget line by line for each department and fund. This dedicated effort continued in 2025 to control spending with a goal to always remain below the NYS tax cap. This has been a struggle with increasing costs of health care, emergency medical services, and other expenses. Until New York State exempts the rising cost of health care and emergency medical services from the tax cap calculation, the Town will never be able to stay below the cap. The Town Board had no alternative but to pass a local law to exceed the tax cap in accordance with NYS General Municipal law §3-C on October 9, 2025. The Town Supervisor provided a budget summary on the town website.

### 9.2 Capital Projects Tracking

**GOAL:** Maintain Records & Brief Board**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town continued to follow its corrective action plan in 2025 in compliance with the New York State Comptroller (OSC) recommendation to better track capital projects and report status to the Town Board. The capital projects spreadsheet tracks approximately 11 active projects and 14 additional archived projects. The Town Supervisor provides an update to the Board during each financial meeting.

The Town Supervisor was responsible for maintaining the capital projects spreadsheet and report status to the Ticonderoga Town Board at each Finance Meeting.

## 9.3 Flood Damages

**GOAL:** Obtain FEMA Reimbursement

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Heavy rains on July 9 and 10 of 2023 caused significant damage to areas of Essex County. Ticonderoga was affected and one major washout occurred on Old Chilson Road which was repaired and returned to service. The Highway and Water/Sewer Departments also completed damage and repairs at DeLano Road, Abercrombie, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Town declared a Local State of Emergency on July 9 which allowed the Town to become eligible for federal and state assistance in recovering a portion of town expenditure and putting that revenue back into town coffers.

Most coordination and funding reimbursement occurred during 2024, however the Town worked with the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHES) in May of 2025 to complete one final reimbursement action.



*FEMA reimbursed projects like this washout.*

## 9.4 Recovered & Reimbursed Funds

**GOAL:** Recover Funds

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town expends significant funds on many projects and necessities. What many may not realize is that most grants for capital projects are reimbursable. The Town must expend its own funding, usually from available unexpended fund balance, and then seek reimbursement. Reimbursement is not automatic. The process involves submitting requests and specific forms/paperwork. Full reimbursement may require a year or more depending on the project. This is why a healthy fund balance is critical and why the number of capital projects is somewhat limited as other unexpected expenses can also drain fund balance and contingency funding reserves.

Part of a responsible budgeting process is looking for additional reimbursement where available to fund projects or offset taxpayer costs, getting more bang for the buck, and recovering

matching reimbursement on capital projects. The Town recovered or has been granted funding in the following approximate amounts during 2025 for a total of \$3,478,882.25:

- \$ 1,294.44 NYS DHSES management costs recovered from July 9, 2023, storm.
- \$ 3,884.13 Airport Apron Expansion Project NYS grant matching funds.
- \$ 120,184.19 Veteran's Road Culvert Project.
- \$ 621,622.81 Veteran's Road Culvert Project.
- \$2,393,000.00 DEC/WQIP Grant - Water Pollution Control Plant Phosphorous Improvement
- \$ 269.70 Airport Apron Expansion Project NYS grant matching funds.
- \$ 532.38 Airport Apron Expansion Project NYS grant matching funds.
- \$ 251,775.00 NYS reimbursement La Chute Trail extension.
- \$ 85,000.00 NYS reimbursement (Sen. Betty Little) sidewalk funding.
- \$ 1,319.60 Recovered EV charge station funds for 2025 not previously collected.

## 9.5 Budgeting ARPA Funding

**GOAL:** Track & Report ARPA Expenditures

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town developed an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spreadsheet to track those projects and expenditures supported by ARPA funding. A total of 12 public safety and community-oriented projects were tracked in 2024 and 2025 (see Section 7):

Also created was a summary report to document all ARPA projects for municipal and County records. All ARPA funding was obligated by the deadline of December 31, 2024, with most of the funding expended. All remaining funding was expended well before the December 31, 2025, deadline in full compliance with U.S. Treasury Department requirements. The Town Supervisor submitted its annual ARPA funding report to the US Treasury Department ahead of schedule on April 26, 2025. The U.S. Treasury Department may require completion of additional Project and Expenditure Reports until the project is closed; however, Ticonderoga's data will not change because all projects were completed, and all monies obligated and expended in accordance with the federal guidelines.

## 9.6 Recover Costs

**GOAL:** Establish EV Charging Fees

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are becoming increasingly relevant. The Town installed an electric vehicle (EV) charging station years ago but never instituted a fee structure or payment method for users

of the system. This has resulted in many dollars of lost income for years. In 2025, the Town Supervisor and Board directed this to be rectified. The town finance staff and a Board Member began an effort to research standard charging rates and fees for occupying an EV station once fully charged. The specific EV station system was programmed with rate information and fees in May. This now allows the town to collect reimbursement for the electricity used, software upgrades, subscription services, and a small fee.

# 10.0 Public Safety & Security

The safety and security of the public and of the town staff is of paramount importance. The premise that something catastrophic or unthinkable cannot happen in Ticonderoga is unacceptable. The Town completed several actions in 2025 associated with public safety and security. These included plans for emergency response, continuing operations, vehicle & traffic issues, and staff/visitor security.

## 10.1 Community Building Security

**GOAL:** Limit Basement Access

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Community Building is a publicly accessible space but is vulnerable to several security issues. The safety of the staff and visitors is of the utmost importance. Following completion of a threat assessment of the Community Building in May 2023 by the Town Supervisor, New York State Police, and Ticonderoga Police Chief, the Supervisor began implementing recommended security measures from the assessment.

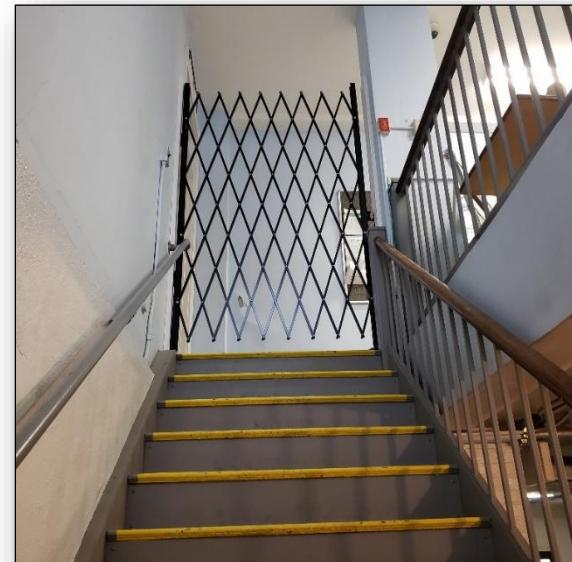
### Securing the Basement Level

The Town installed security gates in 2023 to restrict unescorted public access to the basement portion of the building. One was installed at the top of the stairs near the County DMV office. A second was installed at the basement elevator door. These are locked and the basement area permanently always secured. With North Country Rural Development Coalition in its permanent home in 2025 and no longer residing temporarily in the basement section, these gates are now secure 24/7 unless a meeting is required in the basement boardroom.

It is highly recommended that critical infrastructure in the basement level be contained within a secured area and the building's server equipment be moved to that area as well and secured.

### Reviewing Implemented Measures

Reviewing these measures after an appropriate amount of time, I have observed that some simple, inexpensive, measures have been quite effective in making our staff more secure. The Dutch door at the entrance to the finance office has stopped the public and even staff from



*Stairwell security gates.*

walking into the area where sensitive personnel information may be in use. The public is still adequately served from that door. Traffic down the east hallway, including court traffic which often used the emergency exit door, has now ceased with the addition of the other Dutch door. These measures will never stop a violent act but provide some space between staff and the public and keep the public from entering areas where they need not go while still offering the remainder of the Community Building, a public space, open to the public.

## 10.2 Nuisance & Litter Law Violations

**GOAL:** Aggressively Pursue Violations

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town continues to battle issues involving property owners not maintaining property in compliance with Town codes and local laws. The Town continued to focus heavily on violations of the Town litter law and nuisance property laws in 2025. Property owners who habitually violate these laws impact property values in their neighborhood, negatively impact economic development and investment, discourage tourism, and more importantly, create a public safety issue.

Code Enforcement was directed to a home on Schuyler Street for a repeat offender and ordered to remedy the current situation by cleaning up trash on the property. Within approximately one month, the site was no longer in a state of noncompliance.

The Town continued to address noncompliance issues with the property owner and financial institution for the property at 64 The Portage. After issuing a violation of the litter law in 2025 to the property owner, the Town Code Enforcement office began to tackle the burned garage structure on the property and ordered it be secured to prohibit entry until such time that the structure is demolished. Codes went back and forth with the property until the site was properly secured. The Town pursued additional violations against property owners on Cossey Street and Meyers Street.

Code Enforcement stopped unauthorized and unpermitted work at 56 Lake George Avenue and prevented a porch from falling into the public street. Additionally, a public hearing was held on October 9 for a property at 144 The Portage which was identified as a nuisance property under



56 Lake George Avenue.



Local Law #2 of 2011. Numerous code violations and police activity resulted in the Town pulling the certificate of occupancy (CO) for one year and fining the property owner the maximum amount of \$1000.

### 10.3 Combat Illegal Narcotics

**GOAL:** Implement K9 Program

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

Ticonderoga, like many other towns, is plagued with the issue of narcotics being smuggled in from outside jurisdictions and sold in our community. These drugs are brought in by vehicles, by train, or by mail service. The

Town Board agreed in 2024 to pursue the installation of a police canine (K9) program to help fight the drug issue in our community by giving the Ticonderoga Police Department the means to find narcotics hidden within vehicles that are humanly impossible to detect. The canine program provides an opportunity to increase our police department's ability to investigate and enforce drug crimes. The addition of a canine team to our community sends a message to the people we serve that the Town and its Police Department are taking the drug problem seriously and will use whatever tools that are legally and affordably available.

ARPA funding enabled the Town to purchase a K9 officer and fund training and related equipment in 2025. The Ticonderoga Police Department selected, and the Town Board approved a K9 Handler. K9 officer, Raven, came on board on March 20 and within 4 days was instrumental in a successful narcotics arrest and seizure of cocaine, methamphetamines, and various prescription pills and drug paraphernalia. Raven and her handler will be working within the community on related law enforcement activities and community relations.



*K9 Officer Raven.*

### 10.4 Ambulance District

**GOAL:** Implement and Fund an Ambulance District

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

This was the first operational year for the Ticonderoga Ambulance District which became effective on January 1, 2025. Ticonderoga EMS was chosen as the contracted entity to provide ambulance services to the Ticonderoga Ambulance District on December 27, 2024. The District has very specific products and tasks and is reportable to the Ambulance District Board of Commissioners, which is the Ticonderoga Town Board. These tasks include but are not limited to:

- Maintain accurate records
- Submit financial report on a quarterly basis
- Submit copy of annual budget report
- Provide IRS 990 form each fiscal year
- Complete annual audit of financial records
- Submit proposed budget to Town

## 10.5 Hazard Mitigation

**GOAL:** Establish Plan w/County

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

In 2024, the Town Supervisor worked with Chloeta, an emergency management contractor contracted by Essex County, to update Ticonderoga's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This updated statistical data, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal resources and agreements, communication platforms, capability assessments, critical facilities, etc.

Several Town Supervisors and Emergency Responders gathered at the Essex County Public Safety building on February 5, 2025, to discuss the plan and review the inputs. The Ticonderoga Town Supervisor participated in this activity.

## 10.6 Improve Traffic Safety

**GOAL:** Install Radar Speed Signs

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

In November 2024, the Town moved forward with procuring two (2) solar powered radar speed limit signs for an area in Eagle Lake in response to residents' concerns and recommendations. This area is prone to excessive speed, is a dangerous roadway, and has experienced incidents where the



*Radar speed signs.*

public has been struck by vehicular traffic. Residents appeared before the Town Board at November 14, 2024, regular town board meeting to provide information supporting the safety issue. The signs were delivered in early December 2024 and installed on January 14, 2025. One of the signs stopped functioning and was restored to operation in May 2025. The Town Highway Department is responsible for the continued operation of these signs.

#### **GOAL:** Improve Intersection Safety

#### **STATUS: COMPLETED**

Several residents approached the Town in May raising concerns about the intersection of Alexandria Avenue and Lord Howe. Alexandria Avenue is under the jurisdiction of Essex County (County Route 77). A potential safety issue was identified regarding the perceived inability of Lord Howe traffic to see oncoming traffic on Alexandria Avenue. The Town Supervisor informed Essex County DPW that same month. This issue was also raised at the May 27<sup>th</sup> Public Safety Committee. The County reached out to the engineering firm that performed the design of the bridge and sidewalk in that area and requested them to provide a detailed description of how the final grades after the bridge replacement compared to the grades prior to the bridge replacement. Following the investigation, the County proposed a solution to modify the traffic pattern to which the Town agreed. This involved the modification of a new traffic pattern with the installation of all-way stop signs. These were installed on October 14.



*Stop signs – Alexandria & Lord Howe.*

#### **10.7 Improve Cyber Security**

#### **GOAL:** Change Extensions

#### **STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town of Ticonderoga officially transitioned its digital presence to a new, secure .gov domain in 2025: Townofticonderoga.gov. This effort which began in May, represents a significant step in improving the town's digital transparency, security, and accessibility for residents and visitors alike.

Previously operating under Townofticonderoga.org the town's online services and resources are now accessible at Townofticonderoga.gov, reflecting its status as a verified government entity. The .gov domain is reserved exclusively for U.S.-based government organizations and is managed

by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), ensuring enhanced credibility and trust for users.

The move to a .gov domain brings numerous benefits including:

- **Verified Identity:** The .gov domain requires thorough verification, which reduces the risk of spoofing and phishing.
- **Enhanced Security:** CISA provides tools and guidance for enhanced protection against cyber threats.
- **Public Trust:** The domain clearly communicates that the website is an official government source.
- **Accessibility:** Residents can now find and trust their town's digital services more easily.

The town's old domain, Townofticonderoga.org, continued to redirect to the new domain for a transitional period to ensure a smooth user experience. Old email addresses for town staff were also modified to their new .gov accounts.

## 10.8 Address Court Security

**GOAL:** Approve Court Security Officer Position

**STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED**

The Ticonderoga Police Department is continually challenged with manpower issues. The Department has provided court room security for many years but changing conditions have made it difficult to guarantee this service. The Municipal Court requested a dedicated court room security officer. The Town began looking at adding a new part-time court security officer position in March. The Town worked with its HR consultant to obtain a position description from the County in April and modify a job advertisement in June. The Town Board approved the position at the June regular town board meeting but did not go forward with advertising for the position. Originally, the Town would have sought someone with prior police, corrections, or military experience. However, after further discussion, liabilities associated with employment of a non-current police officer in the Town's department was a concern. The Town Board instead budgeted for an additional part time police officer for the Police Department in the 2026 budget understanding that this could be a difficult position to fill. This position will fall under the Police Chief and be dedicated to court security with other hours allocated to whatever area is needed by the department. This action will continue into 2026 to advertise and hire a new part-time officer.

## 10.9 Improve Armory Safety

**GOAL:** Add Fire Escape

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The Town's NYMIR risk control specialist identified an issue in 2025 while examining community operations at the Armory. Emergency escape for youth activities on the second floor was identified as a concern in the event of a fire which made passage via the stairway impossible. A second means of escape was recommended. The Buildings & Grounds Committee was tasked to find a solution. An escape system was installed on the west side of the building beginning in October and completed in the first week of November.



*Work begins on fire escape.*

## 10.10 Improve Beach Security

**GOAL:** Add Parking Lot Lighting

**STATUS: COMPLETED**

The lack of proper lighting at Black Point Beach was identified in the Public Safety Committee as a safety concern. In August, National Grid completed the installation of a pole with LED lighting.

## 11.0 Summary

We have witnessed exciting changes in Ticonderoga over the last four (4) years. The state of our town has improved and continues to improve. There is excitement in the air. This is not the same town as ten years ago. Ticonderoga has witnessed significant positive economic and infrastructure improvements during 2025 with forward movement of the New York State \$10M Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) award and the State's acceptance of eight (8) approved projects. This, in combination with other revitalization successes such as housing and childcare (TRA project) projects during the year, Town sponsored micro-grants to local small business, progress in public art projects, development of a 60-unit apartment complex, water/wastewater improvements, creation of an ambulance district, and NRDC and Essex County Land Bank efforts to rehabilitate properties in Ticonderoga continue to aid in putting Ticonderoga back on the economic development track to success and provide the necessary amenities required for economic stability and advancement. The Town of Ticonderoga is thankful for all those who have invested and expanded during 2025 and in previous years.



*Mural dedication ceremony.*



I would like to leave you with this departing message. It is important that Ticonderoga continue to grow and not just sustain itself in a stagnant situation. There has been too much stagnation for too long. It's time to continue to push the envelope, complete DRI projects, create new

recreational facilities and activities, improve infrastructure, remove blighted properties and enforce codes, continue town/organizational partnerships, monitor and modify codes and regulations to adjust for changing times, and most importantly to properly budget to maintain all improvements. This is how we grow and obtain additional grant funding. This is how we entice new residents. This is how we entice new business and expand current business. No one will invest in Ticonderoga if we do not invest in ourselves. All these efforts have the potential to increase the tax base which helps to fund the maintenance for these improvements and can help lower the tax burden on all residents. Complacency is NOT an option.



The Town recognizes, acknowledges, and thanks our dedicated local area business development, revitalization and economic development organizations such as the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC), Essex County Land Bank (ECLB), Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance (TRA), and Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership (TMSP) as well as our regional partners including the Essex County Industrial

Development Agency (ECIDA), NYS DOT

Region 1, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST), Essex County Board of Supervisors, Essex County Office of Community Resources, Sylvamo Paper, Fort Ticonderoga Association, and National Grid to name a few. In partnership with the Town of Ticonderoga, much success has occurred, and the cooperation level among organizations is currently exceptional.



*Continued renewal and improvement in Ti.*

As always, considerable thanks go to the staff and department heads in the Town of Ticonderoga who played a key

role in our many achievements and who continue to run our operations and maintain our infrastructure day and night, workdays, and holidays, in snow and rain, during periods of bitter cold and oppressive heat. They, with those mentioned above and including our dedicated and experienced town board members, share responsibility for our achievement and success during 2025 to make Ticonderoga a destination and an exceptional place to live, work, play, invest, and raise a family.

This is my final State of the Town report to the residents of Ticonderoga. It has been my great pleasure and honor to serve my hometown as Town Supervisor. I sought this office with specific goals in mind – improve Ticonderoga's economic standing, create a more enjoyable working environment for staff and eliminate micromanagement, aggressively attack the Chilson/Eagle Lake water issue, improve our crumbling infrastructure, and ensure town government works closely with our economic, business, State, County, and other partners to name a few. These were accomplished. You, the resident voters of Ticonderoga allowed me that great honor and provided me with an opportunity to give back to the town which has given so much to me. I sincerely thank you.



## Our Town...Our Future...Always!