

March 25, 2020

To the Citizens of the Town of North Elba

I hope that you are all aware that we are making diligent efforts to post helpful and updated information daily on our www.northelba.org website and Facebook page. In addition, postings are on my Friends of Jay Rand Facebook page. Be sure and check these sites out!

Unfortunately, these days most of the content is directed at postings and information regarding the Covid-19 virus.

I have some talented staff members and friends guiding me on this, but your comments are always welcome.

Town of North Elba Departments and Offices

In spite of mandated staff reductions and lock out procedures all of our Town Hall offices are functioning during regular weekly business hours through mailings and phone calls. This includes the Town of North Elba Administrative Office, Building/Codes office, and Assessors Office. The main phone # is (518-523-9516). The Town Court may be reached at (518-523-2141).

As you must know from our recent snowstorm, the Town Highway Department is also functioning efficiently although with a reduced staff. Good job on the roads as always, and the Landfill is open on a regular schedule for trash. The recycling center is temporarily closed.

The Town fire and EMS Services, of course, support all of the township beyond the village limits as always.

Other Departments including the North Elba Park District are operational from other town facilities.

Updates

About two weeks ago Mayor Randall and I arranged a meeting with Town and Village Department Heads to discuss the Coronavirus situation in a roundtable type fashion. All departments were present including the Police Chief.

Topics discussed included cleanliness/sanitizing of the building, social distancing, website, staffing and office functions, etc.

One very important topic was the transfer of information process from the State to Counties to Towns and Villages. The process remains that our County leaders take part in a daily phone call with the State Offices. Our county chairman then disseminates the information to town supervisors who pass it on within the townships. In our case we made a group email list of everyone present that day. Group members would then receive information from me. The list

was broadened to include other personnel including all Town and Village Board Members. This process still continues and has been very helpful in many instances.

During the past few weeks some of the Essex County Townships, namely North Elba, Wilmington and Essex have been in constant contact with County Officials about limiting or temporarily shutting down STR's and access to our areas from other locations. County officials have diligently pushed the State for a mandate of sorts to back this up. In spite of these efforts, which included positive efforts from our State Representatives Betty Little and Dan Stec, no action to date has been taken specifically through State actions.

However, as was put on our website yesterday, the county posted a press release "A Message From Essex County To Our Visitors, Weekenders and Second Home Owners", which in a nutshell asked travelers not to travel to Essex County from any area at this time with an additional REQUEST TO PROPERTY OWNERS TO REMOVE SHORT TERM RENTAL LISTINGS FROM SERVICES SUCH AS AIRBNB AND VRBO. See posting for entire message if you have not done so already.

We thank Merrill L. Thomas for removing all STR Listings through April, and request other Real estate Agencies to do the same.

These requests are simply in the best interest of defeating COVID-19 ASAP through the Stay Home Directive.

We are not alone in facing this problem. Wealthy citizens from highly populated areas, mainly NYC, are leaving and going to second homes in small communities all the way East to Nantucket, North to Vermont and our area, and south to Delaware. Read in The Washington Post: <https://apple.news/AO8pIPgf7RWaLzOyKaVyTkg>

The underlying issues are exposure to citizens and limited hospital facilities.

The Town of North Elba is committed to the Health and safety of our Community.

Please take travel and social distancing restrictions seriously.

Hotels have been deemed essential and may remain open to provide accommodations to vital workers.

A special appeal to our short- term rental owners and vacation homeowners: this is not the time to rent or visit. We understand the value you add to Lake Placid and will enthusiastically welcome you back when it is determined to be safe.

Until then: Stay Home, Stop the spread, Save lives.

Stay Safe

Jay Rand

Town of North Elba Supervisor

