

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Tues.	4	-14	0
Wed.	17	-2	tr.s
Thurs.	36	17	.30s
Fri.	35	16	.40s
Sat.	36	-4	0
Sun.	42	34	tr.r.s
Mon.	34	-5	.09s

Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Hearing Thursday on town zoning changes. See story this week.

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Zoners Stay With Five

BY RON ROBERTSON
Members of the joint committee formed to revise the Village of Potsdam's zoning ordinance decided to leave the maximum number of unrelated people living together at five in the draft of the revised ordinance they plan to give the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Members of the committee, made up of the village's zoning and planning boards, were equally divided at a meeting last week whether to leave the number at five or reduce it to four.

At a presentation they hope to make to the village board on Jan. 22, committee members say they will explain their dilemma to the trustees and let that board decide the final outcome.

"We've talked about this one issue more than anything else," said St. Lawrence County Planning Office representative Margo Fenn.

At one point last year, the committee had considered dropping the number of unrelated people living together in a single-family unit from five to three.

In the face of stiff opposition from local landlords, members considered about a month ago to reduce the number to four.

At last week's meeting, the committee was evenly divided and finally decided to leave the number in the draft at five.

"We have something of a mixed opinion on this and for good reason," Fenn said.

Planning Board members Helen Brouwer and Richard Johnson argued that reducing the number to four would help cut back on crowded conditions in some neighborhoods.

Zoning Board of Appeals member Alger Wallace, himself an owner of rental properties, said the reduction would cause a hardship on landlords who have designed their apartments to hold five people.

Zoning board Chairman Mark Coleman said the change would probably not have a significant effect on neighborhood conditions. It is more important, he said, to enforce existing ordinances on parking and noise than to change a regulation that is already difficult to enforce.

Fenn said she would prepare a summary of the changes in the zoning ordinance to make the new document easy for the Board of Trustees and the public to understand.

Fenn stressed that the tentative meeting between the committee and the Board of Trustees Jan. 22 is not a public hearing, but is open for the public to attend.

The Board of Trustees is required by law to hold a public hearing on the zoning code before its adoption is considered.

Fenn suggested the joint committee consider holding at least one public, informational meeting to brief village residents on the proposed zoning changes.

In a lengthy meeting last week, the committee reviewed what could become the final draft it will present to the Board of Trustees.

The proposed draft contains few changes in the shape of each zone, the allowable uses in each zone, and procedural methods in regards to following the ordinance.

Caucuses Set

Potsdam village Republicans and Democrats have set the date for their caucuses to choose candidates to fill two upcoming Board of Trustees vacancies.

The Republicans will caucus at 7 p.m. Jan. 27 in the Civic Center. Democrats will caucus at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28, also in the Civic Center.

Vacant are two trustee slots, that of Hugh Sprague, who was elected in March of 1984, and Charles Turcotte, who was named last July to replace Girard Mulherin. Mulherin left the area to take a job in Virginia.

Elections are slated for March 18. Those elected would take office April 1.

Last year three Democrats — Mayor Paul Claffey, Trustee Jeffrey Belodoff and Robert Sullivan — ran uncontested for the seats of mayor and two trustees. Their terms expire in March 1987.

In Norwood

In the village of Norwood, four offices will be decided in March. A one-year mayoral term will be at stake; Mayor Joseph Mariano, a Democrat, was appointed last year to fill the slot left by the resignation of former Mayor Michael LaComb, a Republican. Mariano's appointed term ends April 1. Voters will choose a mayor to fill the remaining year of LaComb's term.

A trustee will be chosen to fill the remaining year of Mariano's term, and two, two-year trustee posts will be filled. Republican Mark Tebo and Democrat Rollin Beattie currently hold the two year posts.

Norwood Democrats caucus Jan. 21, Republicans Jan. 23.



INTO THE SHED — Potsdam volunteer firemen added herding to their duties Monday night as they led this calf to the safety of a shed and away from a burning barn on the South Canton Road. Six departments battled the blaze through the night in subzero cold. (Ron Robertson photo)

Firemen Battle Blaze

BY RON ROBERTSON AND BETSY BAKER

Firefighters from six departments worked in subzero cold Monday night to fight a fire which destroyed a large portion of a barn on the South Canton Road in Potsdam.

The blaze, which sent flames and billowing smoke many feet into the air, forced an estimated 100 firemen to spend what one fire chief termed "a long, cold night."

The fire was first reported at about 9:30 p.m. Monday. Firefighters and investigators remained on the scene this morning (Tuesday).

Some 90 to 100 bales of hay were destroyed in the blaze. Potsdam Fire Chief Jim Gallagher said when interviewed at the scene this morning.

No cause had been determined, he said, but the fire was contained in the section where the hay was stored. Other sections of the barn — totalling about half to two-thirds of the total structure — remained largely intact, Gallagher said.

St. Lawrence County fire investigator Steve Green was on the scene this morning, Gallagher said.

Throughout the night and into this morning, Gallagher said, six departments and 100 firemen were involved. Responding to the scene were firemen from Potsdam, West Potsdam, Norwood, West Stockholm, Racquette River and Hannawa Falls.

The property on which the barn is

located is owned by Art Dufrane of Alexandria Bay, Gallagher said, and rented by Joe and Mary Lechner. The property is on the South Canton Road just under a mile from the intersection with the Back Hannawa Road.

Gallagher said firefighters managed to retrieve all the livestock — two or three heifers, a calf and a pig — and a tractor, manure spreader and an off-road motorcycle from portions of the barn not directly damaged by the blaze.

One volunteer drove a pickup truck through the field and up the hill to the rear of the barn to pull the tractor out.

Firemen carried the struggling pig from the barn to a nearby shed. One firefighter led a heifer from the back side of the barn to the shed without benefit of a lead or rope. At one point, the fireman wrestled the young cow to one knee in the attempt to lead it.

The shed where the livestock were relocated is between the house and the barn and some 30 to 50 feet from where the fire was the strongest. The shed and the house, another 30 feet in front of the shed, were both undamaged.

Firefighters had difficulty fighting the blaze because of the subzero temperatures and the distance of the barn from the road. The house and the barn are both about 100 yards from the road, at the end of an uphill driveway.

A few firemen were reportedly treated for minor injuries and frostbite.

Hearing Thursday On Town Zoning Changes

BY BETSY BAKER

Officials of the town of Potsdam will put the results of their two years' work on zoning revisions before the public at a hearing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The town planning board, chaired by George Donovan and aided by county planning office staffer Margo Fenn, has been working on changes to the town's master plan.

Thursday's hearing, to be held in the town board room, 35 Market St., will give town residents and other interested persons an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

Planning board Chairman Donovan said Monday that "in general, the board followed the comments that have come down since the last master plan revisions," some 12 years ago.

For example, Donovan said, the lot size requirement for one-family dwellings has been reduced to 1.5 acres from two acres.

The two acre lot size has, in the past, posed problems for some would-be land buyers in the township.

The highway development (H-D) district in the township has been greatly expanded, and Donovan said he believes the town "somehow has to keep better track on what is going up" along major roadways in the town of Potsdam.

Donovan said he would like to see development off the main roads as well, noting that railroad sidings or shopping malls could be constructed off the highway.

The proposed changes in the H-D district allow the town more control, instead of just throwing it open," he said.

Planning board member Cecil Moore, also a former town councilman, said he believes the changes make the town's zoning regulations "a little more liberal than the other ones, but more specific."

The purpose of the revisions was to make the regulations more specific, he said, as well as to provide for long range planning for the town's future needs.

"A lot of work has gone into it," Moore said, "and I think it's good long range planning for the town."

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes include the following:
LOT SIZE REQUIREMENTS — The proposed regulations allow 1.5 acres for one-family dwellings; two acres for two-family dwellings (multi-family requires one acre per unit); two acres or more minimum required for most commercial and industrial uses.

MOBILE HOMES — The proposed regulations divide the definition of mobile homes into three classes: newer, double-wide units meeting state and federal codes, placed on permanent foundations; post-1974 single-wide units meeting state and federal codes; other mobile homes.

HOME OCCUPATIONS — Home occupations would be allowed in all zones, and two non-resident employees would be permitted. Articles produced on the premises and products incidental to the service provided may be sold.

SMALL BUSINESS OPERATIONS — A new definition has been added to the regulations to provide for small commercial activities.

JUNKYARDS — A junkyard is defined as storage of three or more unlicensed vehicles. Fencing, screening and setbacks from property lines would be required.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS — The proposed regulations allow agricultural operations as a standard use in R-2, R-A, C-C, H-D districts, and by special use in R-1.

SIGNS AND PARKING — New sections have been added to specify parking and sign requirements.

ZONING MAP — The map has been organized into five basic districts, with the pattern of the districts more consistent with existing land uses. The H-D district has been greatly expanded. The proposed regulations also provide a tale of contents, explanation of administrative procedures of planning board, zoning board of appeals and code enforcement officer; definitions added for those not previously covered.

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High School PTO To Meet

Potsdam High School Parent-Teacher Organization will meet at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

The agenda will include: a recap of successful PTO events over the past month; a video presented by Principal Douglas Huntley on "Student Leadership"; discussion groups will follow on how to implement aspects of the video in our own school, and future plans of the group. Refreshments will be served.

If anyone has any suggestions or questions please contact Cindy Talcott, 265-2171.

PHCS Kicks Off P.A.R.P. Campaign

PARISHVILLE — St. Lawrence University hockey coach Joe Marsh and SLU hockey player Andre Dalbec helped kick off this year's P.A.R.P. (Parents As Reading Partners) program at Parishville-Hopkinton Central School on Jan. 13.

The theme for this year's program is "Be a Sport" (Smart People Often Read Together). Marsh and Dalbec impressed upon PHCS students in grades four through six the importance of reading and writing have in sports.

P.A.R.P. will run from Jan. 13 through Feb. 3. Parents and students begin by signing contracts promising to read to each other at least 15 minutes a day for five out of seven days. The contracts also state that at the end of each week the students will complete a writing journal.

Weekly incentives are given to those students who successfully complete the reading and writing requirements. The goal each week is obtaining one-third of a movie ticket. By the end of three weeks, successful students will have pieced together a complete admission ticket.

These tickets allow them entrance to the movie "Condorman," which will be aired at the school auditorium on Feb. 12.

Other prizes, to be distributed at an ending assembly on Feb. 5, include: one free book for each student participating in P.A.R.P.; family certificates; 12 chances to see an SLU hockey game; 12 chances to see a Clarkson University hockey game; and 12 chances to see a Potsdam College Bears basketball game.

The underlying prize, according to P.A.R.P. chairperson Mary VanLeuven, is that the students start a good habit of reading a little bit each day.

Parents Night Thursday At PCS

Parents of all Potsdam Central School eighth graders are asked to attend a parents night on Jan. 16, starting at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

One purpose of the first half of the program is to interpret the results of the ACT — Career Planning Report. The second purpose is to help parents to better understand what courses their student should select for Grade 9. Ability and achievement scores as well as teacher recommendations will be explained. Another purpose is to aid parents in helping their student set up a four-year program. New graduation requirements for local and Regents diplomas will be presented.

The second half of the program will be presented by Douglas Huntley, the new high school principal. He will introduce several faculty members representing each subject area taught in the high school. They will present an overview of the high school's instructional program, including new courses developed as a result of the recent regulations of the Board of Regents.

The program is designed to help parents better understand the decisions their son/daughter will be making in the next two weeks. Refreshments will be served by the Parent/Teacher Organization.

Comments Sought On Local Development Corp.

Potsdam Mayor Paul Claffey has invited public comment on a proposal for the village to create a local development corporation (LDC).

In a letter to the editor, Claffey invites the public to ask questions or comment on the LDC proposal at the village board's Jan. 20 meeting.

The board meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Civic Center board room. A public hearing at 7 p.m. on proposed parking changes precedes the meeting.

Community Development Director Robert Juravich advanced the idea at the Board of Trustees' Jan. 6 meeting. Juravich has suggested creating an LDC at least twice before to previous village boards.

The LDC, Juravich explained last week, would be a corporation independent of the village, but could have village officials on its board of directors.

An independent corporation, Juravich said, could take risks in order to promote economic development the village cannot.

Using repaid UDAG loans as collateral, Juravich said the LDC could borrow money for such projects as buying, renovating and reselling old buildings.

"Properly done, what this corporation is is a public entrepreneur," Juravich said.

Many times, he said, the private sector cannot take the risks of a

size a local development corporation could, because of a lack of capital.

The village, he said, would not be responsible for any risks the corporation might take.

The corporate board of directors, Juravich said, could consist of the Board of Trustees, or possibly a mixture of village officials and community residents.

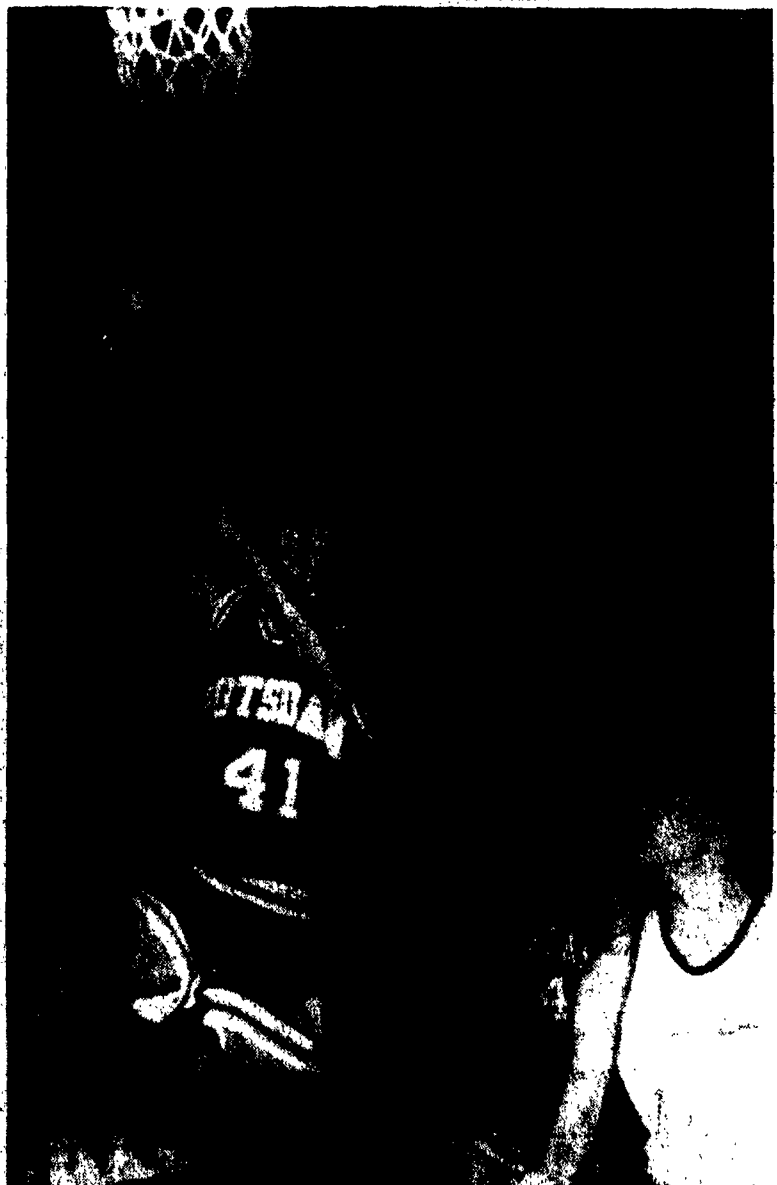
Rotary Challenge Set

The Potsdam and Canton Rotary Clubs have challenged each other over the outcome of the Clarkson St. Lawrence University hockey game on Friday.

According to Potsdam Rotary Club President Richard Valente, each club boasts "a number of hockey enthusiasts" in its membership.

If Clarkson wins, the Canton club will help Potsdam Rotarians sell fundraising materials for their playground project. Canton will also supply 20 men for the Potsdam Rotary Club's village cleanup just prior to the Summer Festival.

If SLU wins, Valente said, Potsdam has agreed to sell 50 dozen long-stem roses for Canton's annual rose sale and will supply manpower for Canton's annual ice cream social.



POTS IT IN — Potsdam's Robert Fenn (41) goes up for the two of his 17 points Friday night in the N-N gym, closely watched by N-N's Phil Blair (22). In background is Stoner John Knaack (14). (Dan Williams photo)