

Town of Indian Lake Highway Department

144 Benton Road, Indian Lake, NY 12842

(518) 648-5615 | highwaysuper@indianlakeadk.com

Monthly Report – December 2025

Snow, snow and more snow! The crew plowed and sanded 24 of 31 days, plus sanded only on 2 additional days. Parking lots and sidewalks were regularly cleared and sanded. Tree and debris cleanup was required following windstorms Dec. 19-21 and an ice storm Dec. 28-29.

Additional tasks:

- Replaced worn flags in town
- Checked streetlights for outages

Truck #181 (2017 Dodge Ram 3500 Dump) was taken out of service in preparation for trading it in for a replacement vehicle.

Truck #194 was involved in an accident while plowing on Dec. 24. The sander and box were damaged, but the truck is still operable. There were no injuries to either driver. A police report and insurance claim were filed.

New hire: Don Prosser

Completed the Annual Report of Local Highway Mileage and submitted it to Tracey Eldridge.



Submitted by Eugene Darling, Jr.
Highway Superintendent
January 8, 2026

Mechanics Report – December 2025

- 195- Replace trailer plug and harness and wire new sander lights.
- 3320- Diagnosed no drive condition. Brought machine into shop and removed left rear tire to gain access to hydrostatic filter and housing. Removed filter and housing. Found large metal chunks. Metal debris appears to be chunks of transmission case and gears. Tractor is out of service until further work can be done. The cab will need to be removed and transmission split in machine to further diagnose or sent to John Deere for estimate on repairs.
- 196- Replace shoot rotation hydraulic motor.
- Parks And Recreations 2500hd- Diagnose and repair grounding issue and power supply problem on Sno Ex V Plow.
- 194- Engine Service and weld sander side flaps back on.
- 183 and 186- Adjust head plow chains and shoes.
- Service call to Blue Mountain and get KX 121-3 started.
- 181- Remove sander, sander control, and wiring harness. Remove low band radio and harness for truck trade in.
- 183- Service call to Corscadden Road and diagnosed hydraulic leak. I found the main PTO supply line to be rubbed completely through. Disengaged PTO and brought truck back to the shop. Once truck was inside the shop, I found several other lines that needed replacement. Replaced all worn lines and filled truck with hydraulic oil. Wired in new sander lights on the rear of sander.
- 193- Drained coolant from engine and replaced faulty block heater.
- 192- Performed first 500-hour service on machine. This includes all filters and oils.
- 186- Remove chain links and tension sander chain.
- 188- Swap sander tails with good spare.
- 194- Fix damage to sander from accident.
- 188- Diagnose intermittent power loss to sander. Found truck battery shorted out causing wiring harness to melt. Fabricated new harness and installed with new batter. Sander now functions as it should.

Town Of Indian Lake Water and Wastewater report for December 2025

State required testing was completed daily at treatment plants.

DEC, DOH samples were collected, and sent to the lab.

DEC, DOH operation reports were submitted.

Updated lead service Inventory and sent out public notifications for unidentified, galvanized service lines to homeowners affected.

Plowed, Shoveled at the plants.

Searched for water leaks in Blue Mountain, and Indian Lake water systems.

Jetted plugged sewer line at Welcome center, Installed new clean out and repaired existing sewer line.

Located a Homeowners curbstop and repaired broken curb box in Blue Mountain.

Replaced a leaky curbstop and installed a new curb box, rod on Crowhill where the homeowner was replacing their service line.

Located Curbstops and shut off two large water leaks in houses in Indian Lake.

Fixed float valve for filter in Blue Mountain Lake Water Plant.

Lost Radio communications between Water Tower, Indian Lake Water Plant ran the plant in timer mode until we found a blown fuse and resolved the issue.

Respectfully - Evan LaPrairie



Building Maintenance report December 2025

During the month of December we did our last recycling pick up for businesses and residence of the Town of Indian Lake. A lot of time and work went into the recycling, residential pick up days we were averaging 6 1/2 hours of recycle time with two guys and on commercial business days 4 hours. I plan on sending someone with Bob LaVergne and his crew to make sure the route is done properly and show him where we had concerns. I know from working with Bob in the past he will do a great job and do a good service for the community.

We finished up our trail work in the month of December with the equipment, now it's on walking and trail maintenance. We've cut back brush on some of our trails replaced bridge planking cleaned culverts and fixed on ramps to bridges. We have started putting up new signs replacing old ones that are no longer reflective.

From trail work straight into grooming, we have been out on Moose River Plaines six times with our big groomer and plan on starting January 1 with some of our local woods trails that have enough coverage for grooming.

We had to sewer issues in the month of December, one at the Welcome Center and one at the Town Hall, we worked with the water and Sewer Dept last month and in this month in correcting a few problems.

We ran the building during vacation week for the kids and we were able to make ice for skating, we lost the rink for a couple days but weather helped us solidify the ice and we are back in business open weeknights, closed Wednesday or Thursday to make ice.

Repairs were made in a few town buildings water, lights, electrical, at the highway garage, painting continued at Town Hall, met with DANC at the Welcome Center, preparing to do floor, made calls to electrician for service installation.

We had one burial at the Benton cemetery.

Thank you
Bill LaPrairie
Dept Head Building Maintenance





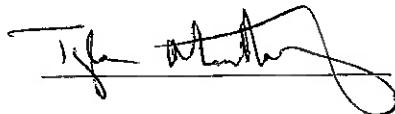
TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE

P.O. Box 730 Pelon Road
Indian Lake, Hamilton County
New York 12842

Town of Indian Lake Building Permit Report 2025

| | <u>2024</u> | <u>2025</u> |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Total # of Permits Issued: | <u>123</u> | <u>127</u> |
| 2. Total dollar amount of projects in #1: | <u>\$8,234,624</u> | <u>\$4,179,676</u> |
| 3. Total dollar amount in fees collected: | <u>\$13,058.50</u> | <u>\$10,379.10</u> |

Respectfully Submitted by:





TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE

P.O. Box 730 Pelon Road
Indian Lake, Hamilton County
New York 12842

Town of Indian Lake Building Permit Report December 2025

| | <u>Residential</u> | <u>Commercial</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Total # if Permits Issued: | 3 | 0 |
| 2. Total dollar amount of projects in #1: | <u>\$22,500</u> | <u>\$</u> |
| 3. Number of Permits in #1 which are Hunting Camps: | 0 | |
| 4. Total dollar amounts of projects in #3: | <u>\$0</u> | |
| 5. Number of single-family permits issued (Camps N/A): | <u>0</u> | |
| 6. Total dollar amount of projects in #5: | <u>\$0</u> | |
| 7. Number of Trailers/Double Wide/Modular Homes: | <u>0</u> | |
| 8. Number of Permit renewals: | <u>0</u> | |
| 9. Number of Firework Permits issued: | <u>0</u> | |
| 10. Total dollar amount of permits in #9: | <u>\$0</u> | |
| 11. Fire inspections (Annual) to date | | 18 |

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tyler Monthony



January 12, 2026, Town of Indian Lake Board Meeting Economic Development, Marketing & Events Report

Community/Economic Development

SHIFT The coalition for North Hamilton County - SHIFT - stands for Supporting Healthy & Informed Futures Together. The main goal is to decrease drug and alcohol use in minors in Hamilton County. Students at local schools are currently drawing up logo options for the coalition to use. At the December meeting we went through a mock teen bedroom to learn about all the paraphernalia that exists for teenagers today. Next meeting is January 12, 2025.

Charity Hat & Mitten Tree drive this year was another great success collecting 165 items (hats, mittens, gloves and scarves). And over 200+ pounds of perishable food items. People in our community are very generous, and we thank them for their continuing support.

Syracuse University's Mascot Otto will be visiting us at the Ski Hut again this year on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from noon to 2pm. This is a collaboration with Minnowbrook Conference Center where they bring all the students who act as mascots to Minnowbrook for a weekend of fun and apparently Otto likes to skate and play our games. This year they plan to bring pizza and snacks to share with the public. We can update you in person regarding this event.

Chamber of Commerce Mixer I attended this event on December 18. It was a nice event at The Bunkhouse and I complimented them on their success in having the building staffed seven days a week. I wish to recommend as part of their new contract with us, the Town is listed as a sponsor at every event due to the large financial investment they receive from the Town.

Events

A FREE Performance, sponsored by the Town, was held on Sunday, December 14 at 2PM of Gem Radio Theatre's "Sherlock Holmes: The Night Before Christmas" at the Indian Lake Theater. This performance was originally scheduled during SNOCADE but was cancelled due to weather. There were 35+ attendees.

SNOCADE 2026 planning and scheduling 98% complete. Placemats will be distributed to restaurants and high traffic areas the week on December 12. We may end up adding a few guided hikes and Learn to Skate Night if we can work out scheduling details. NEW this year, we are trying a scavenger hunt. We have started talking to local businesses to make this happen. The plan is to hide plush moose stuffies around town in restaurants, stores, etc. to drive people into businesses. Cards will be available to pick up at the Welcome Center, Town Hall and any participating locations. Fireworks for SNOCADE have been confirmed with Santore's World Famous Fireworks for \$4,000.

Independence Day 2026 The ILVFD will be handling the scheduling and payment of the fireworks. The Town will contribute \$10,000 to support this expense. We have started booking vendors and music, as it is a big year and vendors will book up fast. We have three food trucks scheduled already; contracted with a DJ for daytime activities on The Commons Property; Mark Arsenault will be performing a concert in the evening at Byron Park. Much more to come!

Marketing/General Admin

Special thanks to the Water Department and Parks & Rec for getting the repairs done to our pipeline to fix our restroom situation.

Adirondack Summer Sports Expo in Saratoga will be March 14-15, 2026. We have already reserved a booth for the Town, which we will split with the Chamber of Commerce as we did last year. Kylie plans to attend for the Town.

2026 Events Calendar was ordered on January 6, 2026. Kylie was successful in getting dates for ILVFD and the Chamber of Commerce so we could include them as well.

All calendars of events continue to be updated on a regular basis as needed.

Flyers, maps, and town event rack cards are continually refilled throughout the community on a weekly basis and as needed.

Social Media: I continue to encourage all to **FOLLOW** and **LIKE** the Town on social media sites.

<https://www.facebook.com/townofindianlake>

<https://twitter.com/TownofIndianLa1>

<https://www.facebook.com/Townsofindianandbluemountainlakeny>

[Nextdoor](#)

Our new Instagram account is [townof.indianlakeny](#). Please **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** our new link.
[townofindianlakeny \(@townofindianlakeny\) | TikTok](#)

Our Facebook page was launched on May 17, 2021, and started with only 18 followers. We currently have 9,552 followers. We did not reach our goal of 10,000 followers by the end of 2025 but I'm confident we will surpass this goal, and our new goal will be 12,500 by the end of 2026. Facebook remains the number one way to communicate with our residents and seasonal residents. Links and photos are the leading content trends. In 2026, we will be adding more reels and videos. The number of women viewers surpass men and the top three cities where viewers are from are Indian Lake, Queensbury, and NYC area.

Technology/Miscellaneous

No updates at this time.

Grants

T-Mobile Community Grant I submitted this grant for the fourth trail at the Ski Hut on October 6 asking for \$26,400. Awards will be announced in February 2026. 12/3/25: No new updates.

NYSDEC ADK Smart Growth Grant Round 8 A grant for \$300K was submitted on October 1 to support the Town Museum Rebuild. Awards are due to be announced in December 2025-Janaury 2026. 1/7/26: No announcements yet.

2025 NYS Budget Appropriation Grant Award for 5 Towns Paperwork was sent in, and we are awaiting a final contract. The funds will support the Town Museum Rebuild. 12/3/25: No new updates.

NYS SWIMS The final report was sent in on October 7. Awaiting \$9,950 to be disbursed. 1/7/2026: We received these funds on 12/23/25.

Northern Forest Adirondack Housing Pre-Development Assistance Program RFP We received a due diligence report which was distributed to the Board. Next steps proposed by Northern Forest is to (1) hire an ecologist to delineate the wetlands on the property, (2) hire a planning/design firm to develop

more detailed concepts based on the earlier master plan The Commons; (3) advance technical assistance to issue a Request for Expression of Interest to developers. Northern Forest does have funding to support these items and can help seek additional funding if needed. We need approval from the Board to move forward and seek a small steering committee to assist with this process in partnership with Northern Forest.

DEC EV Charging Stations Working on close-out paperwork.

DEC Byron Park extension has been approved through July 2026. Final contract has been executed, and project planning/implementation will begin in January. Plan is to install outdoor solar lights as well as reviewing additional enhancements.

DEC EV Car Rebate for \$7,500 was received on 12/19/25.

Meetings

12/16 – Northern Forest prefabricated homes ZOOM Presentation

12/18 – Chamber Mixer

12/23 – SDA ZOOM Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Christine Pouch and Kylie Cannan on 1/8/26.



Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce

Representing Blue Mountain Lake, Indian Lake and Sabael

P.O. Box 724 Indian Lake, New York 12842

Phone (518) 648-5112 Fax (518) 648-5489 website: indian-lake.com

Email: indianlakechamber@frontiernet.net

January 2, 2026

Indian Lake Town Board
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Dear Board Members:

Please find the December 2025 Chamber Office Activity on the table below:

| Activity | # | Activity | # |
|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|----|
| Emails | 179 | Contractor Inquiries | 1 |
| Phone Calls | 24 | Shopping Information | 8 |
| Walk-ins | 37 | Events Inquiries | 15 |
| Contractors | 1 | Pamphlets | 3 |
| DEC | 1 | Visitor Information | 7 |
| Restaurants Inquiries | 1 | Lodging | 1 |

The 'Let There Be Lights holiday lighting contest judging took place on the weekend of 12/12/25 with the winners announced at the Chamber Mixer which was held at the Adk Bunkhouse on Thursday evening, December 18, 2025. Our Annual Meeting and Mixer was attended by 16 Chamber of Commerce members and it was very well received by all.

A total of \$141.00 worth of town merchandise was sold by Chamber staff.

Sincerely,
Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce Board Members
Mary Frasier, Todd Friebel, Joan Golden, Davanna Marks, Joanna Pine, John Sleckman

ALMANACK

Adirondack Roots celebrates launch of Keene affordable housing complex

The first three homebuyers moved into their new houses in Keene, easing the community housing shortage



By Community News Reports
January 1, 2026



Homes at Both Meadow Trail in Keene. Photo by Eric Teed.

The first three homebuyers in the affordable-forever Both Meadow Trail project in Keene closed on their homes last week, marking an important step in easing the community's housing shortage.

Adirondack Roots, a nonprofit housing organization based in Elizabethtown, spearheaded the four-home development off Route 73. One home remains for sale.

“We’re thrilled to bring these new, accessibly priced homes online,” said Caitlin Wargo, Adirondack Roots’ interim executive director. “Home prices across our region have risen more quickly than people’s ability to afford them. This project helps middle-income buyers with good jobs live in the place where they work—which is vital to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our communities.”

Each of the two-bedroom, one-bath homes sold for \$160,000. This below-market price was possible because of support provided by the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal and the Adirondack Community Foundation. In addition, a shared-equity homeownership model kept costs down. While buyers will own their homes, the land beneath is owned by the Adirondack Community Housing Trust. Homeowners will pay \$300 yearly to lease the land, as well as property taxes.

Should owners decide to sell, resale prices are capped under a formula that limits appreciation. In addition, future buyers must provide proof of income eligibility.

Related reading



Discussion time: What housing solutions would work best for your community?



Essex County Land Bank completes second home renovation, expands property search



New life for zombie houses: Essex County Land Bank fully up and running

It's a plan that made it possible for Alison Helm and her two children to finally make a permanent home in the North Country after three years of renting and staying with friends.

"It's really hard to settle in a place that's not your own," Helm said, a teacher assistant at Lake Placid Central School who moved to the area from Connecticut in 2022. While she came here for a fresh start, she said finding a place to live was a struggle. "It's so difficult. You can't even find affordable rent, never mind to own. And I don't have two incomes—I just have me."

She stuck it out because of the community. "It's a really nice place to raise a family," Helm said. "It's safe. I can't tell you how many people have looked out for me during this process."



From left to right: Maria Lopez, housing counseling program manager, Adirondack Roots; Alison Helm, homeowner; Caitlin Wargo, interim executive director, Adirondack Roots; and Bill Finucane, attorney, following the closing of Helm's home purchase. Photo provided by Adirondack Roots.

Joe Pete Wilson, Town of Keene supervisor, said places like Both Meadow Trail are critical to keeping people like Helm in the region. "I hear so often from people who want to move here, who want to live here, but simply aren't able to make it happen because housing is so scarce," Wilson said. "Projects like this make Keene stronger, and I'm grateful to Adirondack Roots for helping bring this to fruition."

Emily Kilburn Politi, president of Adirondack Roots' board of directors, credited several groups for their participation. "These are the kind of creative solutions we need to address our region's chronic housing shortage," she said. "Even though this model is new to the area, our partners on this project didn't hesitate to make it happen."

Those partners included Champlain National Bank, which provided construction financing, and Arrow Bank, which worked through the intricacies of housing trust mortgages. The Keene Valley Congregational Church and private donors supplied funds for landscaping, which was installed by East Branch Organics at a "good-neighbor" price.

- More than 30 applications were submitted to purchase the two-story modular units, which were made by Simplex Homes and constructed by O'Neil Contracting of Bloomingdale.

“Our community thrives when we attract new residents, and it’s been frustrating to know many homebuyers who would love living here simply couldn’t afford it,” said Teresa Cheetham-Palen, a member of the Keene Town Council and chair of the Keene Housing Task Force. “The seed for these homes began two decades ago when former Town of Keene Supervisor Tom Both sold this property to Adirondack Roots. It reflects a long-term commitment to maintaining a vibrant year-round community in Keene. I’m excited to welcome our new neighbors.”

Helm, the proud owner of her first home, usually spends Christmas traveling to see family. But not this year. “For once, we are in our own space,” Helm said, grateful for all the pieces that fell into place. “And we don’t have to move again.”

About Adirondack Roots

Adirondack Roots is dedicated to building vital and sustainable communities by helping individuals and families put down roots and stay in the North Country. The nonprofit organization develops and preserves quality, affordable housing and helps community members obtain and maintain safe, secure homes through education, advocacy and support services.

D J Rogers

January 3, 2026 at 3:59 am

A very welcome & heartwarming story to start the New Year. God bless all those who made it happen!

Brian E Wells

From: Addario, John R (DOS) <John.Addario@dos.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 10:29 AM
To: Brian E Wells
Subject: More Restrictive Local Standards for Construction/More Restrictive Local Energy Codes

Division of Building Standards and Codes
New York State Department of State

Date: December 23, 2025

Re: More Restrictive Local Standards for Construction/More Restrictive Local Energy Codes - Town of Indian Lake
Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer

Dear Brian Wells,

Please accept this correspondence as (1) an update regarding recent amendments to the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the "Uniform Code") and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (the "State Energy Code"), (2) a request that each local government that has local standards for construction that were previously approved by the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (the "Code Council"), a local energy code that was previously found to be more restrictive by the Code Council, or a local energy code that was not previously found to be more restrictive by the Code Council but filed with the Code Council within thirty days after promulgation or adoption of such local code (or any amendments or revisions thereof) pursuant to subdivision 2 of section 11-109 of the Energy Law, review those local standards (or that local energy code) and report its determinations to the Department of State, and (3) a request that local governments review their local laws and ordinances for any local standards for construction or local energy codes **not previously submitted** to the Code Council and evaluate them for compliance with Executive Law and Energy Law. Please see Executive Law § 379 and Energy Law § 11-109 for details pertaining to more restrictive local standards for construction and more restrictive local energy codes, respectively.

Recent Amendments to Uniform Code and State Energy Code

On July 25, 2025, the Code Council adopted major updates to the Uniform Code and adopted a new State Energy Code. Those updates are effective on December 31, 2025, with the temporary exception of 19 NYCRR Section 1240.6 and Subpart 1229-2, as indicated on the Department of State's website ([see here](#)). The following announcement provides additional information on these updates: [2025 Code Update](#). The announcement includes a list of publications, that were incorporated by reference and became part of the updated Uniform Code and State Energy Code. [Access to NYS Specific Code Books](#) is available through the publisher.

Requests to Local Governments:

In light of the changes to the Uniform Code, in order to remain compliant with Article 18 of the Executive Law, each local government that has local standards for construction that were previously approved by the Code Council must (1) to review those local standards, (2) to determine whether those local standards remain more restrictive than the version of the Uniform Code effective on December 31, 2025. The Department of State is requesting each local government send an email to code.development@dos.ny.gov with the local government's determinations regarding the status of those local standards for construction. Please note that any local government whose previously approved local standards for construction are less stringent than the version of the Uniform Code effective on December 31, 2025, should immediately stop enforcing the local standards, and should enforce the 2025 Uniform Code.

In light of the changes to the Energy Code, in order to remain compliant with Article 11 of the Energy Law each local government that has a local energy code that was previously found to be more restrictive by the Code Council or a local energy code that was not previously found to be more restrictive by the Code Council but filed with the Code Council within thirty days after promulgation or adoption of such local code (or any amendments or revisions thereof) pursuant to subdivision 2 of section 11-109 of the Energy Law must (1) to review that local energy code, (2) to determine whether that local energy code remains more restrictive than the version of the State Energy Code effective on December 31, 2025. The Department of State is also requesting each local government send an email to energy.code.dev@dos.ny.gov with the local government's determinations regarding the status of that local energy code. Please note that any local government whose previously approved local energy code is less stringent than the version of the State Energy Code effective on December 31, 2025, should immediately stop enforcing the local energy code, and should enforce the 2025 State Energy Code.

In addition to reviewing previously approved local standards for construction and local energy codes as noted above, the Department of State also requests each local government review their local laws and ordinances for any local standards for construction or local energy codes **not previously submitted** to the Code Council and evaluate them for compliance with Executive Law § 379 and Energy Law § 11-109, respectively.

Executive Law § 379 and Energy Law § 11-109

For your convenience, the "Notice and Petition Relating to More Restrictive Construction Standards (Uniform Code - Executive Law § 379)" and "Filing to the State Fire Prevention & Building Code Council of More Stringent Local Energy Conservation Construction Code (Energy Code – Energy Law § 11-109)" forms are enclosed. These forms can be used to provide the required notice and petition to the Code Council following the enactment or adoption of a local law or ordinance that imposes more restrictive standards for construction or for filing of a more stringent local energy conservation construction code. The forms and additional information explaining the processes for approval of local standards for construction and local energy codes are available online at: <https://dos.ny.gov/state-fire-prevention-and-building-code-council/#more-restrictive-local-standards>. The Department of State recommends that a local government consult with its attorney in all matters relating to enactment or adoption of the local law or ordinance, and in all matters relating to preparation and submission of the required forms to the Code Council. Please note that the requirement that a higher, more restrictive, or more stringent local standard be filed with the Code Council is separate and distinct from the requirement set forth in Municipal Home Rule Law section 27, subdivision 3, that a local law be filed in the office of the Secretary of State in order to be effective.

The Department of State recommends that you forward a copy of this letter to your chief code enforcement officer and to your municipal attorney for their review.

If you require assistance, please contact the Code Development Unit at code.development@dos.ny.gov or the Energy Code Services Unit at energy.code.dev@dos.ny.gov.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

Matthew Tebo, Esq.
Deputy Secretary of State
Division of Building Standards and Codes
New York State Department of State

Links contained in this email have been replaced. If you click on a link in the email above, the link will be analyzed for known threats. If a known threat is found, you will not be able to proceed to the destination. If suspicious content is detected, you will see a warning.

Brian E Wells

From: Mulvey, Mellissa <mulveym@ilcsd.org>
Sent: Friday, January 2, 2026 1:58 PM
To: Brian E Wells; David Harrington; Mellissa Mulvey
Subject: Zero-Emission Bus regulation update

Dear Brian,

I wanted to provide you with an overview of the State's zero-emission school bus requirements and to explain how the district has begun specific planning steps, even though the Board of Education and I have significant concerns about the feasibility of this mandate for a small, rural school like Indian Lake, given our location and that we lease our bus garage from the town.

New York State law requires school districts to transition to zero-emission school buses over time. Beginning in 2027, the purchase or lease of non-zero-emission buses is restricted, and a full fleet transition is required by 2035. Recognizing that many districts cannot realistically meet these requirements on the prescribed timeline, NYSED has established a transportation waiver process.

I applied for the Zero-Emission Bus Transportation Waiver this week. If approved, this waiver allows a school district to temporarily continue purchasing, leasing, or contracting for traditional (non-zero-emission) buses after 2027 while remaining eligible for State Transportation Aid, provided the district demonstrates legitimate operational, financial, and infrastructure barriers and exercises due diligence to ensure compliance. The waiver does not exempt districts from the law entirely, but it provides time and flexibility while these significant barriers are documented.

As part of this required due diligence, the district completed a bus fleet assessment with National Grid. That assessment projected an increase in annual electricity costs from roughly \$1,800 to nearly \$100,000 to support electric buses, which is not sustainable for our school district.

The Board of Education has discussed this issue extensively and does not support the transition to zero-emission buses for Indian Lake due to the substantial financial, operational, staffing, and infrastructure challenges involved. These include the size of our fleet, long rural routes, cold weather conditions, mechanic training requirements, and the fact that the district does not own its bus garage. Despite this position, we are legally required to demonstrate good-faith efforts toward compliance and to fully document these barriers through the waiver process.

To that end, we have begun working with C&S Engineers, who will coordinate with NYSERDA to further evaluate potential options and formally document the challenges we face. Their study will be comprehensive. They will review our existing fleet, bus routes (local and extracurricular), 5 years of weather data, the impact of cold on chargers, and the infrastructure required at the bus garage (leased from the town, not on our property). They will provide a report in 3 parts: existing conditions, route analysis, and a plan outlining the resources required to implement this

When C&S conducts a site visit and identifies the scope, cost, and feasibility of any potential plan, we would like you to attend that meeting so you can see firsthand the complexity and limitations involved. It is important that there is a shared understanding of what is being required of the district under state law.

I wanted to ensure you have this information so it is clear that these actions are not discretionary but necessary steps to meet State requirements while continuing to advocate for what is realistic and responsible for our school and community.

I will keep you informed as this process continues.

Community Responsibility in the Face of Large-Scale Solar Development



By Pete Vroman, Montgomery County Executive

Montgomery County is proud of its deep agricultural roots, scenic landscapes, and close-knit communities. As we work to preserve these assets while facing the pressures of modernization and growth, we must confront a growing challenge: the unchecked spread of large-scale solar installations across thousands of acres of our farmland.

Let me be clear—Montgomery County supports property owners and their rights to use their land. Landowners are vital stewards of our local economy, especially in our agricultural sector. However, those rights should not come at the expense of the broader community. When individual decisions lead to widespread consequences—loss of productive farmland, diminished rural character, and irreversible damage to the natural beauty that drives tourism and community pride—we have a responsibility to speak up.

Currently, several large-scale solar projects are being proposed or underway in Montgomery County. These projects don't simply involve rooftop panels or modest installations tucked behind barns. They span hundreds, even thousands, of acres—permanently altering our landscape and threatening our largest industry: agriculture. Once these prime farmlands are covered with steel and glass, they are lost for generations, if not forever.

Adding to the frustration, the energy generated from these massive solar projects is not even staying here. It's being "shipped" to other parts of the state, often to meet demand in downstate regions. Our residents are not seeing lower energy rates. We're not receiving local power credits or grid enhancements. In short, the people who are being asked to sacrifice their landscape, heritage, and economic foundation are not the ones benefiting from the power being produced.

If there were direct benefits to Montgomery County residents—like rate reductions, infrastructure upgrades, or reinvestment—we might be having a different conversation.

What's more concerning is that Montgomery County is being disproportionately targeted. Our open land and proximity to key parts of the power grid make us an easy choice for solar developers looking to maximize profit with minimal resistance. But this "easy target" approach overlooks the long-term impacts on our residents, our heritage, and our local economy.

Equally troubling is the erosion of local control. Traditionally, decisions about land use and zoning have rested with local planning boards—people who live here and understand the values and priorities of the community. But the state's current framework for large-scale renewable projects has stripped that authority away. Now, distant state entities—not the people of Montgomery County—are determining what happens on our land.

We are not anti-renewable energy. Solar has a role in New York's energy future. But it must be done responsibly—with appropriate scale, location, and community input. Rural counties like ours should not be forced to carry the burden of meeting statewide energy goals at the cost of our own economic health and identity.

As a community, we must advocate for smarter policies—ones that uphold landowner rights while also protecting our farmland, preserving our viewsheds, and maintaining local control. This is about balance. It's about making sure that the rights of the few don't outweigh the needs of the many.

Montgomery County deserves a voice in shaping its future. Let's ensure that future includes renewable energy, yes—but not at the cost of who we are, and certainly not without fair benefit to the people who call this county home.

Taylor Miner

From: Eddie Kraftchisin <kraftchisin@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 2:30 PM
To: Taylor Miner
Cc: Lynn Billings
Subject: Fwd: REQUEST: Emergency/911 Address for Parcel 45.000-2-2.100 Indian Lake (Kraftchisin)
Attachments: Kraftchisin Driveway.pdf

Taylor,
Great talking to you today and thanks for the help!

We are requesting to use a private road name ("Bear Brook Lane") for the Emergency/911 Address for Parcel 45.000-2-2.100, Indian Lake.

Why: The driveway will run North - South along the side of Bear Brook from RT28, plus we also plan to establish the Bear Brook Maple Farm on the property. My wife and I thought it would be a great fit.

The distances of the driveway from both the East and West property boundary lines are as follows:
EAST - 1,475'
WEST - 1,600'

Also included is a map with distances and driveway location for reference.

I copied Lynn to keep her in the loop.

Thanks Again!

v/r, Eddie

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lynn Billings <assessor@hamiltoncountyny.gov>
Subject: Re: REQUEST: Emergency/911 Address for Parcel 45.000-2-2.100 Indian Lake (Kraftchisin)
Date: January 5, 2026 at 10:28:09 AM EST
To: Eddie Kraftchisin <kraftchisin@icloud.com>

Hi Eddie,

Happy New Year! You could look into the possibility of doing a private road name such as Bear Brook Lane if you prefer to do that vs having a Route 28 address. If you plan to eventually subdivide the acreage at all, this would be preferable for 911 purposes vs a Route 28 address, particularly if numerous driveways would be coming off of the initial driveway/road.

If you would like to look into a private road name, you would need to contact the town clerk, Taylor Miner, in Indian Lake. She could put you on the agenda for the next town board meeting. The town board would need to approve the request for a private road name. When/if they do, you would send me a copy of their approval and then I can set up the 911 address and street number with that name. If you think you would like to go that route, I would advise waiting to do the 911 address rather than giving you a Route 28 address now, and then switching it a month or two from now. Please let me know how you would like to proceed. I am at the county today if you have any questions - 548-5531 - or I will be in the Indian Lake office tomorrow, Tuesday. Thank you!

Best,

Lynn Billings
Hamilton County Assessor

Town of Lake Pleasant
518.548.3625 ~ Ext. 5

Town of Indian Lake
518.648.6479 ~ Ext. 6

From: Eddie Kraftchisin <kraftchisin@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, January 2, 2026 1:30 PM
To: Lynn Billings <assessor@hamiltoncountyny.gov>
Subject: REQUEST: Emergency/911 Address for Parcel 45.000-2-2.100 Indian Lake (Kraftchisin)

This message originated from outside of the organization.

Lynn,
Hope all is well and happy new year!

I now have an approved New York State Department of Transportation Driveway location for property (Parcel 45.000-2-2.100, Indian Lake) and would like to get the Emergency/911 Address for the location.

Last year you advised to wait until we had official plans. The engineering and permit work are complete and Tioga Construction will begin to improve the driveway in the spring of 2026.

I measured the distances from both the East and West property boundary lines to the driveway location using a calibrated measuring wheel.

Distances to driveway are as follows:
EAST - 1,475'
WEST - 1,600'

Also included is a map with distances and driveway location for reference. If you need additional information or I missed something just let me know.

Different question/request: Concerning the name of the address, would we be able to suggest ### "Bear Brook Lane", State Route 28, Blue Mountain Lake? The driveway will run North - South along the side of Bear Brook from RT28, plus we also plan to establish the Bear Brook Maple Farm on the property. My wife and I thought it would be a great fit.

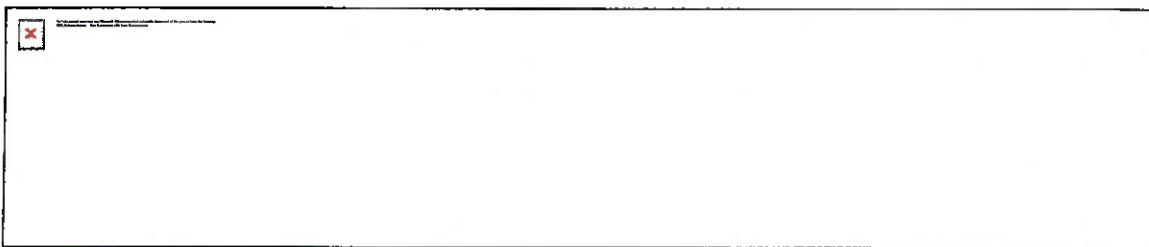
Just asking, we noticed our neighbors have their road named "Carry Lane" because they are on the Marion River Carry side of RT28 and we saw other marked driveways in Blue Mt. Lake such as "Roblee Way", etc.

Anyway, That would be great if we could get the Bear Brook name in there!

Thank you for all your help!!

v/r, Eddie Kraftchisin
PH: 570-479-4708

From: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
<nysdec@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2025 10:06 AM
To: ilsuper@hotmail.com
Subject: DEC Finalizes Regulations to Support Working Forests, Climate Resilience, and the Forest Economy



DEC Finalizes Regulations to Support Working Forests, Climate Resilience, and the Forest Economy

Forest Tax Law Changes Effective March 1, 2026

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced the finalization of regulation changes to the Real Property Tax Law Section 480a, also known as the Forest Tax Law. The comprehensive overhaul of the 50-year-old regulations streamlines processes and reduces administrative barriers on participating forest landowners, while strengthening sustainable timber management on enrolled lands.

“More than 75% of the 18 million acres of forests in New York are privately owned, making private forest landowners essential partners in meeting our State’s environmental goals and supporting a stable, forest-based economy,” **Commissioner Lefton said**. “The 480a regulatory updates reinforce the role of private forests in achieving long-term forest stewardship, supporting rural economies, and conserving open space.”

New York State enacted the [480a Forest Tax Law](#) in 1974 to encourage long-term management of forested land. The law provides a property tax incentive for private forest landowners who commit to managing their woodlands sustainably under an approved forest management plan. [The updated regulations](#) (PDF) modernize program requirements to reflect current forest management best practices and make participation more workable for forest landowners. By improving program clarity for enrollees and administrative processes, DEC is ensuring the 480a program continues to be a practical incentive to keep lands forested and sustainability managed.

The revised regulations:

- lower administrative and compliance burdens for landowners and consulting foresters by extending the period that an approved forest management plan covers from 15 years to 20 years and requiring fewer plan updates;
- provide greater flexibility in forest management work planning by moving away from an annual schedule;
- strengthen sustainable forest management on enrolled lands by requiring efforts to establish adequate forest regeneration and explicitly banning harvest practices that remove most of the commercially valuable trees at the expense of future growth and future financial return; and
- standardize program expectations, administration, and compliance by establishing a training requirement for consulting foresters working with enrolled and prospective landowners.

New York's forests play a critical role in carbon storage, climate resilience, clean water protection, and biodiversity conservation. At the same time working forests support a statewide forest products sector that provides employment in forestry, logging, manufacturing, and related services—particularly in rural regions.

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “The Department is proud to work with New York's forest landowners through the Wood Products Development Council. I'm glad to see that these updates to the State's Forest Tax Law will help to further that effort, supporting our unique wood products economies while promoting sustainable forest stewardship and protecting this treasured resource.”

DEC released the draft regulations in 2024 and received 260 public comments from 33 separate organizations and individuals. A [responsiveness summary document \(PDF\)](#) is available on the DEC website.

Notice of the final regulation will appear in the State Register on December 31, 2025. The updated regulations will take effect on March 1, 2026. DEC will provide updated guidance and outreach materials to support landowners, foresters, and other stakeholders.

For [more information about the new and revised regulations, as well as how to participate in the program](#), visit DEC's website.

<https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases>

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Brian E Wells

From: Olivia Pacific <OPacific@boces.com>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 1:42 PM
To: Carmen Newtown; Roger Hadlock; Dave McManus; shain; zach colson; Steve Green; highwaysuperintendent; Brian E Wells; Yvonne Lutz; Jessie McDonald; Breana Young; highway@lakepleasantny.gov; Ron Flannery; Mike Baldock; Town of Litchfield Highway; Town Supervisor; Paul Wilson; Seth Widrick; Pat Weston; lawbill72@gmail.com; Andrea Stewart; Lloyd Hall; William G. Farber; Dean Hoffman; Jason; Adrienne Rehleya; groffy46@yahoo.com; ohio@ntcnet.com; Rob Black; Francis Yerdon; jbpowers@northnet.org; Pitcairn Supervisor; John Keleher; highway@richfieldny.com; Restored Account; Darcie Cross; Highway Supervisor
Subject: Presidential order moves to reschedule marijuana

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President Trump's Marijuana Rescheduling Executive Order What It Really Means for DOT & Federal Drug Testing

On December 18, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order aimed at expediting the federal process to reschedule marijuana to Schedule III and expanding research on medical marijuana and cannabidiol (CBD).

The announcement immediately triggered confusion, particularly in DOT-regulated and federally regulated safety-sensitive industries where drug testing is mandatory and public safety is paramount.

Below is a clear, compliance-first breakdown of what changes, what does not, and where the real risks and misconceptions exist.

What the Executive Order Does (and Does Not) Do

What it does

- Directs the Attorney General to expedite completion of the marijuana rescheduling process to Schedule III.
- Encourages federal agencies to remove barriers to marijuana and cannabinoid research, including medical marijuana and CBD.
- Acknowledges the existing DEA rulemaking process, including the proposed rule issued in May 2024.

What it does not do

- Rescheduling is **not** federal legalization.
- Schedule III substances remain controlled and regulated under federal law.
- The Order does not override existing DOT or federal safety-sensitive testing rules.

The Quote That Nails the Real Compliance Concern

"This executive order will need much clarification as it relates to the process of rescheduling marijuana, and most importantly there must be a clear determination that DOT, HHS and federally regulated safety-sensitive positions will not be prohibited from continuing to test for marijuana. When implementing this executive order the focus must also be on public safety."

James A. Greer

ADT President & Past Chairman, National Drug & Alcohol Screening Association

This statement captures the core issue: public safety, regulatory authority, and drug testing panel requirements.

DOT Drug Testing: What Happens Right Now

For DOT-regulated employers, operations remain business as usual.

- DOT testing is governed by 49 CFR Part 40, which explicitly includes marijuana.
- DOT guidance has consistently stated that state marijuana laws do not override federal testing requirements.
- Following the Executive Order, DOT leadership reaffirmed that marijuana use remains prohibited for safety-sensitive employees.

Bottom line: As of right now, Schedule III does not mean marijuana is allowed for drivers, pilots, or operators.

The Real Complication: HHS Mandatory Guidelines

DOT testing programs must align with the HHS Mandatory Guidelines, which establish the scientific and technical standards for laboratory testing.

If marijuana is rescheduled, questions may arise regarding how Schedule III substances are treated under existing HHS testing frameworks.

This is why careful clarification is essential, so DOT and federally regulated safety-sensitive programs are not unintentionally prevented from continuing marijuana testing.

Federal Employee Drug Testing Programs

Federal workplace drug testing programs rely on HHS and SAMHSA Mandatory Guidelines. The Executive Order accelerates research and rescheduling, not immediate testing changes.

- Policies do not automatically change due to scheduling updates.
- Testing panels change through formal guidance and rulemaking.

What to Watch in 2026

- DEA final rule and effective date
- HHS or SAMHSA Mandatory Guideline updates
- DOT or ODAPC formal guidance
- Congressional or administrative fixes if conflicts arise

Practical Compliance Guidance

DOT-regulated employers

- Do not change your DOT drug testing panel.
- Do not accept medical marijuana cards or prescriptions as a basis to cancel a DOT marijuana positive.
- Communicate clearly: rescheduling is not permission for safety-sensitive employees.

Federal workplaces and contractors

- Remain aligned with agency authority and applicable Mandatory Guidelines.
- Avoid preemptive policy changes until formal written guidance is issued.

The Takeaway:

Testing does not change because headlines change. Testing changes when the rules change. Any implementation must ensure that public safety remains the priority.

This email was sent by john@accrediteddrugtesting.com to cgregory@boces.com
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