

LP Board approves stormwater ordinance

By JULIE SMITH

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LAKE PLACID — Monday evening, the Lake Placid Village Board approved a joint stormwater management ordinance for the village of Lake Placid and town of North Elba that targets stormwater control on both small and large projects.

The ordinance states that landowners in the village or town must obtain permits from the building inspector's office before creating any "new impervious surfaces" measuring more than 1,000 square feet on their properties.

"It will keep stormwater on the site and not flood neighbors' properties," said Bill Billerman, Lake Placid/North Elba Joint Review Board chairman.

The ordinance must also be approved by the North Elba Town Board — which will next meet Tuesday, August 13 — before it can be implemented.

Despite the Village Board's unanimous approval of the plan, the notion of stormwater control enforcement was raised repeatedly during the meeting.

"We're passing legislation that will just be put on the shelf," Mayor

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Roby Politi said. "We're not going to get enforcement until the building department has time to enforce it."

Politi, Billerman and village trustees agreed that the building inspection office is not adequately staffed to perform its current duties — let alone to enforce new stormwater management legislation. Department expansion would benefit the village and town in several respects, Politi said.

But Billerman said he believes this legislation will educate landbuyers.

"Whether or not it gets enforced, it's part of the educational process of the applicant," he said.

Several trustees were optimistic about approving the plan.

"By doing this, we're letting our downstream neighbors know we are concerned about what Lake Placid sends their way," trustee Pat Gallagher said.

In the plan, the construction of new driveways and roofs ("new impervious surfaces") measuring upwards of 1,000 square feet will require a \$25 permit, to be obtained by the land owner. This fee will mandate the implementation of on-site stormwater control

systems, such as drains and crowned surfaces, to prevent stormwater run-off from spilling onto nearby properties.

The re-roofing or re-paving of existing surfaces will not require a permit.

The plan, with its 1,000-square-foot threshold, is a slightly modified version of the comprehensive plan presented to the Village Board earlier this year.

The Village Board held a public hearing on the stormwater plan March 11, where the residents' main concern was that small projects would be burdened by an increased review process.