

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: 2-6-2017
Re: City Manager's Report

1. North Country Council provided us the attached brochure entitled "Supporting Local Businesses: A Guide for Municipalities". Copies of the document are attached for your review. The Planning Board has done a works session with North Country Council using this guide.
2. In a Webinar to be held Wednesday, February 8 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Stephen Byrnes, Staff Attorney at the NH Municipal Association will discuss issues related to public meetings under the Right-to-Know law. Among other things, the content will include what constitutes a public meeting, how to do proper noticing, telephone participation, minutes and non-public sessions. **Webinar Description and Registration**
3. Locally, the Berlin Daily Sun has been keeping us up to date on the Nansen Ski Jump renovation project. Attached is an article The Concord Monitor ran in their February 1st publication about the project. The article gives a good perspective from the contractor's point of view.
4. Health Department Update – I have been working with Mike Counter, President of North Country Home Health and Hospice on the process to transfer Berlin Home Health patients who choose to transfer to North Country. We are working to have the notification and transfer process completed around the end of February.
5. HB 324, the bill which would require municipalities to use the Department of Revenue Administration's valuations when assessing utility property was voted to be retained. The House Science, Technology & Energy Committee will keep the bill for a full house vote next year. In the meantime the Assessing Standards Board will study and make a recommendation on this bill.
6. Activity Reports attached include: Public Works monthly report for January; Police Department activity report for December and Fire Department Call Activity.

News > State (/News/State/)

Rebuilt by Bow contractor, N.H.'s famed Nansen Ski Jump to host a daring last hurrah

By NICK REID

Monitor staff

Wednesday, February 01, 2017

A towering piece of New Hampshire's history will be temporarily restored to active duty this month, when the 80-year-old Nansen Ski Jump in Milan launches one last skier.

A team of Bow-based contractors spent six weeks this winter putting a new deck on the rotted, 171-foot-tall steel-framed structure, which was once the epicenter of American ski jumping.

Soon, the lights will shine again, drawing the attention of the ski-jumping world for the first time in decades.

The star of the one-time event just north of Berlin is Sarah Hendrickson, a 22-year-old Red Bull-sponsored athlete whose parents grew up in Plymouth.

The former world champion and first-ever woman to jump in an Olympic skiing event will use the spectacle to jump-start her career after suffering devastating injuries in recent years. She'll be the first person in 32 years to shoot at highway speeds off the 310-foot-long runway.

And when the crowd and TV cameras disperse, advocates of the region's rich history in skiing hope to capture the momentum created by Hendrickson and her Red Bull media team to reinstate the jump as a tourist attraction in a depressed area.

Jay Poulin, secretary for the Friends of the Nansen Ski Jump, along with various state officials hope to restore the jump to its former glory.

"To the baby boomers and before, it's iconic," Poulin, 41, said. "It lost its significance in my generation and the generation after me. Hopefully this brings it back."

A ski-jumping capital

Berlin already had a proud history in skiing long before the jump was built. Scandinavian immigrants in the late 1800s, who skied mainly for practical reasons, brought the tradition with them and began competing in cross-country skiing and ski jumping, said historian Walter Nadeau, who is vice president of the Berlin and Coos County Historical Society.

The Nansen Ski Club, which they formed, is the oldest organization of its kind in the country.

In the early 1900s, Berlin was booming. The mills there were the largest producers of paper in the world, Nadeau said, managing or owning 3.5 million acres of land and employing upward of 10,000 people.

The city's population grew to 22,000 in the 1930s – far above its current 9,600 – and so did the region's prominence in skiing.

When the Nansen Ski Jump was built in 1936, it was the tallest free-standing ski jump in the world, Nadeau said. It hosted Olympic tryouts in 1938 that attracted 25,000 spectators and were announced on 87 radio stations, he said.

Ski jumpers in the area even went so far as to prepare a bid for the 1944 Winter Olympics, Nadeau said. World War II made sure that those games never happened, but Nansen regained its prominence in peacetime and hosted a total of four national championships before 1973.

But by the 1980s, the city itself and its role in the skiing industry were in decline, Nadeau said, as new technologies required updated ski-jumping facilities.

"One of several reasons why ski jumping kind of died away from this area was, No. 1, there were better venues for the big jumpers to go to Lake Placid," Nadeau said. "And also, the old-time volunteers that helped prepare the jump for big-time events were gradually dying off."

A star reborn?

Somewhat like the jump itself, Hendrickson is looking to reboot her career. At 19 years old, the Utah native had dominated the inaugural World Cup ski jumping circuit in 2012 and won a world championship in 2013.

Then, she had the opportunity to represent the United States at the Olympics in the first class of women's ski jumpers, when – 90 years after the first men's event – women won the right to compete in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.

At a moment when she felt she was at the top of her game, less than six months before the Olympics, she overshot a jump in Germany and blew out her knee, according to the U.S. Olympic Committee.

She recovered enough that she was able to compete in the Olympics, but she started the competition as the lowest-ranked skier there because she'd missed so much time. She finished in 21st place.

But there was a silver lining: The Olympics called for the lowest-ranked skier to go first, and so she became the first woman ever to jump in the Games.

In June 2015, she tore her ACL again during a practice jump in Utah. After another surgery and a year of rehab, she only began jumping again this past December, according to *Outside* magazine.

"There's a parallel," she told the magazine. "I've been off the radar for a while, I haven't competed in a year, and I've been training my ass off to get back. And not just get back — to get back and win a medal in Korea."

Jump restoration

Although the Nansen Ski Jump was structurally sound, its deck hadn't been touched since 1972, said Greg Baier, the lead contractor tasked with restoring it this winter. The men who rebuilt it moved meticulously around the rotted planks and wore harnesses in case they fell through.

Baier, who owns Knollstone Contracting, was called upon in early October to see whether he'd take the extraordinary job of re-decking the jump amid a season of negative temperatures and gusty winds.

When he and his team of five men visited the site, he said, "We all stood on the ground with our mouths hanging open, going, 'What are we doing here?'"

Although Baier, 38, said he'd never even heard of the jump before the job came up, he went home and read every article and watched every video he could find, becoming enthralled by its history. His crew accepted what they saw as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, rented an Airbnb home nearby where they'd live together and started work at the end of November.

It took 22 tons of lumber to rebuild the deck, he said, noting that he cleared out every Lowe's in New Hampshire and some in Maine and Massachusetts.

At one point about halfway through the job, Baier said, he was caught vulnerable on the jump amid 30-below-zero temperatures and 30 mph winds. A gust caught the side of the jump — which would sway noticeably in the wind — and nearly sent him plunging down. He yelled to his crew to get down, because that day's work was done.

"I'm not afraid of heights at all, but being up that high and having the wind and the movement," he said, pausing. "It definitely slowed us down."

The team barely finished in its six-week time frame. But the crew spent enough time in the area that it became renowned at the Millyard Lounge, where they'd stop for drinks at the end of the day.

It was there that Baier said he fully grasped the importance of the ski jump after the locals became curious about them and asked what brought them to the area.

When he said they were working on the jump, "it was like a record scratch," he said. "Everybody turned around and from that point forward everybody wanted to talk to us and share their stories. . . . We'd walk into the bar and they'd say, 'Oh, the ski jump guys are here. Six Budweisers, here you go.' "

He said of the local attitude toward the jump restoration: "It's like having Gillette Stadium built in their backyard. They're all about it."

Continued investments

Hendrickson may be the only skier expected to make the jump, but the state's Bureau of Historical Sites hopes tourists will continue to visit the site for years to come.

Ben Wilson, the director of the bureau, said the state's final investment will be close to \$150,000 to restore the judge's stand, light the jump and install interpretive panels along the course. Much of that was planned three years ago, before Red Bull entered the picture, in conjunction with the Friends of the Nansen Ski Jump.

But Red Bull, whose infrastructure donation and site preparation alone is approaching \$75,000, has changed the picture completely, Wilson said.

Poulin, of the Friends, said he hopes that tourists will enjoy visiting the site to learn about its history, explore the judge's stand, have a picnic and peer off the end of the jump. He envisions drivers on the adjacent Route 16 looking up at the thing as a monument – illuminated at night in full view of the road – just as they used to line up thousands at a time in the farmer's field across the street.

"Right from the get-go, our goal as the Friends was preservation of the jump. It was never about jumping," he said, "however, along comes Red Bull."

Hendrickson's jump is planned for late February, although the date will depend on the weather, and a Red Bull spokesperson said it's a private event.

Poulin said the investment and energy brought by Hendrickson's sponsor kickstarted his group's restoration effort. He estimated that the re-decking probably would have been "years down the road" otherwise.

There's still plenty to do, Poulin said, "but we want to kind of leverage the jump to get some funding and other things lined up, so we can continue to preserve it and allow people to enjoy it going forward."

Then, he imagines, the public can visit and "stand on the end of it, and just look out over the hill of the jump itself, to give them that real perspective of this incredible sport of ski jumping, and what kind of courage you need to launch off this thing."

(Nick Reid can be reached at 369-3325, nreid@cmonitor.com or on Twitter at @NickBReid.)

City of Berlin Fire Department

Incident Type Report

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2017} And {01/31/2017}

Incident	Alm Date	Time	Primary Action	Property Use
311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew				
17-0000001-000	01/01/2017	02:17:00	30 Emergency medical services	429 Multifamily dwelling
17-0000010-000	01/08/2017	20:33:00	73 Provide manpower	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000011-000	01/09/2017	07:10:00	92 Standby	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0170019-000	01/13/2017	09:02:00	73 Provide manpower	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0170022-000	01/15/2017	15:23:00	73 Provide manpower	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000024-000	01/19/2017	11:41:00	73 Provide manpower	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000030-000	01/23/2017	14:50:00	73 Provide manpower	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000034-000	01/26/2017	18:40:00	73 Provide manpower	429 Multifamily dwelling

Incident Type Count: 8 Percent of All: 20.5%

331 Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)

17-0000002-000	01/03/2017	00:45:00	22 Rescue, remove from hazard	429 Multifamily dwelling
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Incident Type Count: 1 Percent of All: 2.5%

400 Hazardous condition, Other

17-0000039-000	01/31/2017	15:13:02	45 Remove hazard	429 Multifamily dwelling
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Incident Type Count: 1 Percent of All: 2.5%

412 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)

17-0000037-000	01/31/2017	10:10:00	44 Hazardous materials leak control and containment	519 Food and beverage stores, grocery
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Incident Type Count: 1 Percent of All: 2.5%

424 Carbon monoxide incident

17-0000007-000	01/05/2017	02:46:00	45 Remove hazard	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000009-000	01/08/2017	12:29:00	86 Investigate	569 Professional supplies, services
17-0000032-000	01/25/2017	09:26:00	45 Remove hazard	429 Multifamily dwelling

Incident Type Count: 3 Percent of All: 7.6%

442 Overheated motor

17-0000018-000	01/12/2017	22:56:00	45 Remove hazard	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
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Incident Type Count: 1 Percent of All: 2.5%

443 Breakdown of light ballast

17-0000012-000	01/09/2017	11:27:00	86 Investigate	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
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City of Berlin Fire Department

Incident Type Report

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2017} And {01/31/2017}

Incident	Alm Date	Time	Primary Action	Property Use
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

462 Aircraft standby

17-0000021-000	01/15/2017	12:42:00	92 Standby	331 Hospital - medical or psychiatric
17-0000023-000	01/16/2017	19:08:00	92 Standby	331 Hospital - medical or psychiatric
17-0000036-000	01/31/2017	08:13:00	92 Standby	300 Health care, detention, & correct
Incident Type Count:	3			Percent of All: 7.6%

500 Service Call, other

17-0000017-000	01/12/2017	15:15:00	85 Enforce codes	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000027-000	01/23/2017	09:45:00	61 Restore municipal services	648 Sanitation utility
Incident Type Count:	2			Percent of All: 5.1%

511 Lock-out

17-0000006-000	01/04/2017	22:33:00	93 Cancelled en route	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

520 Water problem, Other

17-0000020-000	01/15/2017	09:32:00	66 Remove water	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000035-000	01/26/2017	20:01:00	86 Investigate	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
Incident Type Count:	2			Percent of All: 5.1%

531 Smoke or odor removal

17-0000015-000	01/10/2017	14:28:00	86 Investigate	549 Specialty shop
17-0000033-000	01/25/2017	22:05:00	60 Systems and services, other	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
Incident Type Count:	2			Percent of All: 5.1%

542 Animal rescue

17-0000029-000	01/23/2017	14:46:00	72 Assist animal	880 Vehicle storage, Other
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

555 Defective elevator, no occupants

17-0000028-000	01/23/2017	11:02:00	60 Systems and services, other	419 Multifamily dwelling
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

City of Berlin Fire Department

Incident Type Report

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2017} And {01/31/2017}

Incident	Alm Date	Time	Primary Action	Property Use
571 Cover assignment, standby, moveup				
17-0000003-000	01/03/2017	01:20:00	74 Provide apparatus	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

600 Good intent call, Other

17-0000038-000	01/31/2017	12:53:00	80 Information, investigation	219 Multifamily dwelling
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

632 Prescribed fire

17-0000031-000	01/24/2017	14:23:00	86 Investigate	134 Funeral parlor
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

730 System malfunction, Other

17-0000005-000	01/03/2017	11:29:00	60 Systems and services, other	607 Water utility
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

733 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction

17-0000004-000	01/03/2017	09:33:00	63 Restore fire alarm system	834 Hospital - medical or psychiatric
17-0000013-000	01/09/2017	19:46:00	60 Systems and services, other	409 Boarding/rooming house, residential
Incident Type Count:	2			Percent of All: 5.1%

740 Unintentional transmission of alarm, Other

17-0000026-000	01/23/2017	04:23:00	86 Investigate	429 Multifamily dwelling
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

743 Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional

17-0000016-000	01/11/2017	18:15:00	86 Investigate	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
17-0000025-000	01/22/2017	08:03:00	63 Restore fire alarm system	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
Incident Type Count:	2			Percent of All: 5.1%

744 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional

17-0000014-000	01/10/2017	13:03:00	86 Investigate	215 High school/junior high school/mi
Incident Type Count:	1			Percent of All: 2.5%

City of Berlin Fire Department

Incident Type Report

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2017} And {01/31/2017}

Incident	Alm Date	Time	Primary Action	Property Use
745 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional				
17-0000008-000	01/07/2017	08:38:00	86 Investigate	419 1 or 2 family dwelling
Incident Type Count:		1	Percent of All: 2.5%	

Total Incident Count: 39

Berlin Police Department
February 2017 Commissioner's Meeting
**- December 2016 Activity Report -
YEAR END**

	December 2016	Year To Date 2015	Year to Date 2016	Difference %
Total Calls for Service	1512	18038	20477	13.52%
Milan Calls for Service	55	686	655	-4.52%
Total Arrests	46	676	699	3.40%
Protective Custody Arrests	5	66	68	3.03%
Felonies	14	224	189	-15.63%
Misdemeanors	68	912	908	-0.44%
Thefts	22	337	299	-11.28%
Burglaries	0	74	46	-37.84%
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	7	197	200	1.52%
Criminal Threatening	6	122	125	2.46%
Sexual Assaults	0	45	28	-37.78%
Assaults	14	132	119	-9.85%
Domestic Violence Incidents	23	258	210	-18.60%
Verbal Arguments	3	66	83	25.76%
Restraining/Stalking Orders	5	80	81	1.25%
Drug Complaints	12	215	182	-15.35%
Motor Vehicle Stops	108	2616	3323	27.03%
Motor Vehicle Violations	11	198	349	76.26%
Motor Vehicle Warnings	56	1811	2328	28.55%
OHRV Complaints	7	79	136	72.15%
OHRV Stops	0	99	140	41.41%
OHRV Accidents	0	13	24	84.62%
DWI Violations	4	28	49	75.00%
Accidents	24	207	189	-8.70%
Accidents Within an Intersection	6	62	44	-29.03%
Parking Tickets	21	417	491	17.75%
Dog Complaints	15	473	376	-20.51%
Animal Complaints (other)	11	159	207	30.19%
Assists to other Berlin Departments	38	521	493	-5.37%
Assist to Berlin Ambulance	102	860	935	8.72%
Assists to Gorham PD	3	79	78	-1.27%
Assists from Gorham PD	5	43	46	6.98%
Juvenile Incidents	12	198	212	7.07%
Juvenile Arrests	2	46	36	-21.74%
Officers issued 21 parking ticket for the following reasons:				
Winter Parking Ban - 1st Offense	15			
Winter Parking Ban - 2nd Offense	2			
Winter Parking Ban - 3rd Offense	1			
Sidewalk	3			

**City of Berlin Public Works Department
2017 Activity Report**

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