NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF PENFIELD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penfield completes purchase of Shadow Pines Golf Course
“Next step, property assessment for public safety”

PENFIELD, N.Y., APRIL 30, 2018 – On Friday, April 27 the Town of Penfield completed the purchase of the former Shadow Pines golf course from Dolomite/Oldcastle. The purchase includes the 206 acre former golf course plus the Clark House with its adjacent structures and six acres of land.

The Town acquired the property with a designation of general municipal use, which allows the greatest flexibility for overall community and public uses such as a combination of open space, passive and active recreation; a community center, library, lodge, or other public facilities. A final plan is not in place.

The Town will now assess the condition of buildings and grounds and perform necessary work to remove hazards and make the property safe for public use. This work will commence immediately and carry on into the summer until the grounds are deemed safe; the main task is maintenance of damaged trees and limbs that are hung up and in danger of falling. While this work is being done the public does NOT have permission to access the property. The Town will publicly notify residents when public access is allowed and how the property may be used.

“Now that the Town owns the property, our priority is public safety. The buildings and grounds have not been maintained since golf operations ceased in December 2015. We all know there have been major wind storms and damage since then—everyone has seen downed trees along the perimeter,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “Our first order of business is to evaluate the property and structures. After that we will do the work to prepare the land for public use. Until we inventory our ‘to-do’ list that timeline is open-ended. At the same time, the Town Board will move ahead with committees and planning for general uses of the property.”

Once public access is allowed, passive recreation (hiking, cross country skiing, open space) will be permitted on certain portions of the property until a final master plan is approved and reviewed with residents and a path forward is planned out.
The Town Board is in the process of forming a committee of residents to explore and make recommendations for future land uses. Defining future land use is a key responsibility of the upcoming 2020 Comprehensive Plan Committee, therefore the Town Board will appoint a few residents to serve as liaisons on both committees to keep plans moving and ensure consistency between the two groups which should be announced in the next 30 days.

Until a plan is in place the Town will maintain the Clark House and immediate grounds. The former golf course will not be mowed and maintained, however it will be made safe.

Deputy Supervisor Andy Moore adds, “Once public access is allowed, we welcome members of the community, scouts, service organizations, faith, environmental, and other volunteer groups that have already expressed interest to help maintain trails and grounds on this scenic property.”

Supervisor LaFountain will provide regular updates on the status of the property and public access in his weekly column available at www.penfield.org.

For background information on The Shadows please go to the project page at http://www.penfield.org/index.php?pr=Golf_The_Shadows

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