

Two vie for Town Supervisor

"I don't make promises, I make decisions" – Roger Amell

Roger Amell is a Democrat running for re-election to the office of town supervisor. He stopped by the Free Press recently to discuss his candidacy.



Mr. Amell is wholeheartedly in favor of the sale of Setting Pole dam. "It's a win-win situation!" he said.

He sees the dam as a liability for the town. He said he tried to get FEMA money to repair it, but was unsuccessful. "I said, 'I wish we could sell it' to a local investor in Tupper Lake, who spread the word to Dennis Ryan (vice-president of ECoSponsible, Inc.). He called me in May and we got the ball rolling."

Mr. Amell continued, saying he checked the legality of the sale with town attorney Kirk Gagnier and told the board about the possibility of selling the dam in June.

In answer to criticism that he's moving too fast on this, Mr. Amell explained that Ecosponsible is working within a time frame because federal monies are involved, expiring in December.

The dam was valued at \$436,000 four years ago, he said. He spoke recently with an appraiser who said a new appraisal would cost \$6,000 to \$8,000. It would be hard to determine the dam's value, he said. It would depend on who might want to buy it.

Selling the dam will put the parcel back on the tax rolls, he said, as well as netting the town a \$12,000 donation for its youth programs every year that it operates.

"Tupper Lake will be known as a green power center with the newest technology," he said. "It's all about taxes, all about helping, and it's getting rid of a major liability. I can't foresee anything negative about it. It will tie in with the Wild Center and the APO as an educational site. There's the possibility of them selling back power to Tupper Lake to reduce the amount we have to purchase. It will reduce our carbon footprint."

Mr. Amell supports a more active role for the town in promoting tourism in Tupper Lake. "That's why we bought a new groomer," he explained. "Snowmobilers spend a ton on money. The old groomer is too small and needs repairs."

He also supports the events coordinator

position with the chamber of commerce. The town has made a three-year commitment for paying a part of the salary for that position.

"Business has to rely on tourism because the local people don't have the money to support them, with the economy and taxes the way they are. I'm proud to say our tax level is less than \$3," he stated.

He pointed to the activities at the beach this summer, which attracted both locals and tourists.

"I'm in favor of any job creation, any avenue we can find for jobs," he said.

Asked for his position on the rail/trail debate, Mr. Amell was somewhat equivocal. "I wanted to make Tupper Lake the hub for rail, but anything with government takes so long. I supported the resolution to tear up the tracks, but I wanted it only if the train wouldn't come through. I do support both, but I know we can't have both. The tracks from Lake Placid to Tupper Lake aren't important. I want the train to come to Tupper from Utica. I'm a snowmobiler. I know how much money we're losing because of the rails."

The question of whether there should be a beach at the municipal park was met with a resounding, "No! That was never the idea. Any beach at the park would be small, for wading. We don't want to duplicate what we have at Little Wolf, but it would give the uptown kids a beach."

He added, "I didn't support the \$40,000 grant for the study. I wanted it for Little Wolf. That money leaves Tupper Lake. It doesn't create jobs in Tupper Lake. We should have to hire someone local for those grants."

Mr. Amell has definite opinions on what the town should pay towards the new emergency services building.

"We have to break out the fire department only," he said. "Right from the get go, and I've never changed my mind – the village wants 70-30. That's a bad business deal. I want 50-50. The town's houses are newer and up to code. We shouldn't be penalized for having nicer houses. The village says it is a benefit for the community. Then the community should have voted on it. I'm looking out for the taxpayers. I don't want a \$3.5 million debt! Can the taxpayers really afford that? The OWD would have been the place for the fire department."

Mr. Amell has been in office for eight years. "Hopefully, people will look at my track record," he said. "I've kept taxes low. I put the community first. I'm a very active supervisor – I'm there three or four days a week. I have a lot of experience on a lot of levels – sewer district issues, understanding blueprints, the cost of things. I'm very supportive of the Adirondack Club and Resort. I'm dedicated to mitigation before adjudication. I've put three-quarters of a million dollars back on the tax rolls through the sale of town property."

Mr. Amell is 56 years old and has been married for 34 years to Mary Kay. They have three children, Jason, Kayla and Troy, and four grandchildren, Alia, Eli, Teagan and Easton.

"Vote for the person,"

he urges voters. "I'm looking at taxpayers as community, not as parties. I will talk to any taxpayer on any issue to resolve that issue. I don't play politics. I don't make promises, I make decisions!"

Let Us Keep Working For You!
VOTE ROW 'A' DEMOCRATIC
On Tuesday, November 5th
Town of Tupper Lake

Supervisor- **Roger Amell**
Councilperson (4 yr. term)
John Quinn Sabrina Shipman
Councilperson (2 yr. unexp. Term)
Kathleen Lefebvre



Paid for by the Franklin County Democratic Party

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New Views:

1. Promote efficiency in government through cooperative partnerships and fiscal responsibility.
2. Promote and encourage economic development through destination marketing and regional branding.
3. Promote tourism and agriculture.
4. Continue working with North Country Community College and other college institutions.
5. Continue holding line on unfunded mandates to try and keep under 2% cap.

**Vote for the Legislators that will continue to encourage the
consolidation of services for more efficient government**



VOTE ROW 'A' DEMOCRATIC

On Tuesday, November 5th

Paid for by the Franklin County Democratic Party

Local Students attending SLU

St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, welcomes the following students as members of the class of 2017.

Each first-year student participates in St. Lawrence University's innovative First-Year Program- one of the oldest living-learning programs in the country- helping students make successful transitions from high school to college. Students live together and are taught by faculty teams, developing the writing, speaking, and research skills needed for college. Students continue to develop these skills in a spring First-Year Seminar.

Prudence S. Dechene of Long Lake. Dechene graduated from Long Lake Central School.

Hannah E. Klossner of Tupper Lake. Klossner graduated from Tupper Lake Middle High School.

Gretchen A. O'Leary of Tupper Lake. O'Leary graduated from Tupper Lake Middle High School.

Samantha E. Ormsby of Tupper Lake. Ormsby graduated from Tupper Lake Middle High School.

VFW POST 3120

Park St.- 359-7107

**Dinners are served on
Tuesdays & Thursdays**

at the VFW

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

(Menu items while they last)

Members & Guests: VFW, American Legion,

Marine Corp League & Associate members.

Not an Assoc. Member? Call the VFW 359-7107 to inquire.

MENU

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Shrimp Scampi with herbed pilaf,
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Tues., Nov. 5th

Baked Ziti w/garlic bread, tossed salad.....\$8.00

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