

Significant Activity Report April 20, 2021

Fire Department

1. We received financing approval from the leasing agent for the Fire/Police radio simulcast system. The Town attorney is finalizing the service contract with the installation vendor.
2. On Monday April 12th the Town Manager swore in two new firefighters. Kevin Montminy and Sean Spencer will fill vacancies on two shifts. They began their two week probationary in house academy and will transition to their assigned shift.
3. All shifts completed their annual live fire training exercises. Shifts traveled to the New Hampshire fire academy in Concord and participated in exercises with their counterparts from Lebanon and Hanover Fire Departments.

Police Department

During this period, the police department participated in the Upper Valley Virtual Resource Fair with several other area community and social service organizations to provide an overview of the services being provided and how they have adapted during the pandemic.

The police department received 300 bicycle helmets through a "Safe and Active Community Grant." The helmets will be available during our National Drug Take Back Day on April 24 at the Co-Op as well as at the Hartford Police Department throughout the summer while supplies last.

The department celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week during the week beginning April 11th. During this week we recognize and thank our emergency communication specialists for their work and dedication as they provide dispatch services to our community and first responders.

The police department took delivery of one of two of its replacement fleet vehicles to replace aged cruisers.

During this reporting period, the department handled 332 incidents. The breakdown is as follows:

Animal Problem – 3
Assault – 4
Citizen Dispute – 4
Larceny – 3
Motor Vehicle Disturbance – 3
Fraud – 2
Disorderly Conduct – 1
DLS – 1
Domestic related – 17
Drug Possession – 2
DUI – 4
Noise Disturbance – 3
Sex Offense – 1
Suspicious Person or Circumstance – 22
Traffic Accident – 3
All other - 259

Town Clerk

1. The Clerk's Office has continued to process dog licenses. We have reached 440 licenses issued as of April 15th; this represents roughly half of dogs licensed in 2019. We will begin following up with owners of record who have yet to license their dogs for 2021 in the coming weeks in an effort to improve the number of dogs licensed in Hartford this year.
2. The pace of Recording has slowed a bit as have title search appointments. The real estate market remains robust however, there is such limited inventory it appears to be slowing the volume we are seeing in the office. I expect it will increase again soon.
3. We have continued to process pending liquor license applications. We have also contacted businesses whose licenses have been approved at the State level. We will continue to process those as we receive them from VT DLC. The 2021 Liquor licenses are effective May 1, 2021.
4. The Clerk attended two Webinars, part of the Annual Town Officer Education Conference On April 12th & 13th, entitled: 1). Digitizing Land Records & 2). The 2020 Census
5. We have been coordinating and preparing for the Board of Abatement Deliberations on April 26th. The Board heard 10 applicants on March 29th; due to the late hour at the end of the hearings, the Board determined it would be best to deliberate at a separate meeting. Decisions will be rendered on April 26th with the Decision Letters issued by Certified Mail to the applicants soon thereafter.

Parks and Recreation

- o Paul Davis completed mold remediation of pool pump house
- o DeWolfe Construction completed assessment of drainage at pool site
- o Completed start-up of Maxfield domestic water system. Received two (2) negative Total Coliform tests – pavilions will be available for public use On Monday, April 19th
- o Installed dock at Kilowatt S. boat ramp
- o All playgrounds are open & inspected
- o All parks are open for public use

- o Lower section of Quechee Falls still closed due to anticipated weather

- o Vermont Esports League kicked off on 4/12
- o Maxfield Monday Walk on 4/12 had 10 participants.
- o Camp Ventures was held at the HMMS for April vacation with 21 campers.
- o 4/16 – Jason Tardy Performance – Outside show was canceled due to weather. Performance will be held indoors for Camp Ventures.

Planning and Development

Hartford's Energy Commission E-Bike Project - The Commission and Town staff have been working diligently with *Local Motion* to kick off the Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes) demonstration and loaner project in Hartford. Starting the week of April 19th through May 8th, people will be able to sign-up to borrow *Local Motion's* E-Bikes. A demonstration program is planned for April 24th at Town Hall (rain date May 1st). More

information will be on the Town Website. The project is intended to get people familiar with E-Bikes to promote an alternative mode of transportation.

- Green-Up Day – Sign-up to clean-up specific locations in Hartford May 1st Green-Up Day is in full swing. Starting April 19th, trash bags will be available outside Town Hall (rear entrance) and the Quechee Library. People are encouraged to clean-up before and on May 1st. Dumpsters will be at Town Hall and Quechee Green a few days before and through the May 1st weekend. All COVID safety protocols are encouraged. More information is on the Town Website and social media.
- “Light First Fridays” – May 4th is the come-back of *First Fridays* in Downtown White River Junction since COVID, and the first of four *First Friday* events featuring *White River Indie Films* (WRIF) lighting up the streets and buildings. More information coming soon on the Town Website, WRIF Website and social media.
- Timber Harvest in the Town Forest – The Town is working with the State Forester to develop a Request for Proposals for logging companies to do a selective timber harvest in the winter of 2021/2022 as part of the Town’s Forest Management Plan. The harvesting is done in an environmentally sensitive manner which promotes the health of the forest. It also generates income for the Town that traditionally has gone into the Town’s Conservation Reserve Fund to maintain the Town Forest and implement other conservation projects town wide.
- Cornerstone Community Center (CCC) VCDP Planning Grant Proposal – Following the Selectboard approval of proposal, the grant application was completed and submitted.

Assessor

- Processed homestead declarations
- Processed Current Use applications for 2021 Grand List
- Attended Town Officer Education Conference (TOEC)
- Data entry on inspections for 2021 Grand List
- Resolved the Villages appeal

Public Works

The sweeper is out and about cleaning up our streets to get ready for spring!

Hannah has been working closely with Tracy to develop a Summer Construction Communications Plan.

The DPW team has been working diligently to facilitate the start-up of construction around town, particularly on the Sykes Mountain and Downtown projects.

DPW has been working closely with Tracy and Lisa to iron out on-street dining in the Downtown.

We have likely experienced our last ‘winter’ event for the year!