

Significant Activity Report

May 18, 2021

Town Clerk

- The Clerks, as a courtesy reminder, have started to follow up with dog owners of record who have not yet licensed their dogs in 2021.
- We are experiencing an increase number of Marriage License requests. We are currently offering this service to VT & NH residents only until the Town Hall re-opens.
- The Clerk is reviewing Cemetery information provided by other Town Clerks.
- The Clerk will be coordinating a Board of Civil Authority Meeting in early summer to discuss some BCA procedures and Tax Appeals for new members and, schedule the Biennial Voter Checklist review.
- The Clerk will be attending a VLCT Webinar regarding Tax Appeals on May 20th.

Assessor

- Finished permit activity for grand list
- Attended VALA meeting
- Analyzed property transfers
- Transferred data from Vision to NEMRC
- Reviewed sales with QL Resort and adjusted values for the grand list

Parks & Recreation: Program and Park Highlights

- Parks & Recreation Community Survey is out. We have collected over 100 so far. Further distribution will take place over the next couple weeks.
- Monday “Step It Up Hartford” had 9 walkers for the Maxfield Walk on May 10th. Beginner Mountain Biking for Women on Tuesdays with 10 registered. The program is held at the Hurricane Hill Trails. On-going Youth Sport Programs. Youth Baseball and Softball, Youth Lacrosse through the Hartford Lacrosse Club – All teams are practicing and playing games. Our Afterschool in the Parks, Lego Club, Comics Class, Pickleball, Esports, Youth Karate programs continue.
- Park permits the past two weeks equate to over 239.75 hours of usage. Maxfield tops out with over 166 hours of permitted usage and Lyman Point has over 54 hours of use. Plenty of activity at Maxfield with games and practices and Lyman Point permits for various uses.

- The Rain Garden Volunteer Project with Apple Corp continues behind the bandstand here at Lyman Park.
- The Outdoor Pool Project started up on May 10th. The project team met on Zoom prior to start up to review safety precautions, concerns over the parking lot traffic and overall impact the construction might have on the school's activities. They anticipate the shell of the pool to be completely removed by the end of next week.
- Interviews for Camp Staff are complete and offer letters have been given to potential staff for summer positions with Camp Ventures.
- Henderson's Tree Service started working at the Center of Town Cemetery removing several hazard trees and trimming several others to open up the canopy in and around the cemetery after years of overgrowth and neglect.

Fire

- Contract for the public safety radio system is complete and equipment is being ordered by the vendor.
- Staff participated in combined swift water rescue training with Hanover and Lebanon. The drill was conducted on the Ottauquechee River below the Quechee covered bridge. Members practiced rescue swims and simulated rescue scenarios.
- Shifts responded to 82 calls for service during this period. Comparing last fiscal year's responses to date, FY20 we had responded to 1,990 calls for service and currently in FY21 2,164 calls for service. Approximately 8 percent increase in call volume this year.
- The Fire Prevention Office completed 38 inspections during this period. Numerous construction projects are in progress throughout the community requiring many follow up inspection.
- The Fire Department will soon be posting our response data on CityWatch by Motorola. This system is current used by HPD and will show historical department activity. Once the system is operational, we will post a link on the fire department webpage and Facebook account.

Planning and Development

- Green-Up Day – May 1st Green-Up Day was very success again this year even with COVID safety guidelines and a windy day. Dumpsters were full at Town Hall and the Quechee Green. More to come on the how much Hartford collected. Thanks to Matt Osborn's organization and daily monitoring, and to DPW and Park and Recreation Departments for their assistance with disposal and a truck.
- Clifford Park Food Forest – May 12th was the virtual kick-off community meeting to discuss designing and installing fruit bearing plants in Clifford Park. Consultants Cat Buxton and Karen Ganey will be leading the design process and a series of virtual permaculture and planting workshops to create a volunteer group of individuals to do the fall planting and ongoing maintenance. This project is the result of a community survey last September regarding alternative uses at Clifford Park, such as food production, with 171

responses and very strong community support for the project. This project also meets one of Resilient Hartford Committee’s program goals to expand food production as a means of increasing local food security.

- Demolition Standards for Historic Properties – Staff, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission continued working with the consultant on reviewing options for Zoning Regulation changes to address the loss of historic properties in town. A community meeting is scheduled for June 3rd.
- “Light First Fridays” – A variety of creative films lit-up Downtown White River Junction parking lots and buildings on May 7th for the restart of *First Fridays* of the month featuring local filmmakers. The evening was coordinated through the *White River Indie Films* (WRIF) organization in partnership with Downtown business, Vital Communities, and Hartford’s departments of Park and Recreation, and Planning and Development.
- South Main, North Main, and Gates Streets TIF Project – Worked on state revolving loan applications for the next section of construction, scheduled to begin this summer and complete in 2022.

Police

Corporal Eric Clifford and his K9 “Dozer” were recognized by the Vermont Police Canine Association as the 2020 Drug Team of the Year. Among the drugs Dozer is credited with locating during his deployments in 2020, it includes over 10,000 bags of heroin and just over \$23,000 in drug currency, leading to 27 arrests.

The police department celebrated National Police Week for the week beginning May 9th, with the 15th being National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The week is a time to honor fallen officers and recognize and thank those that continue to serve.

The police department put into service new and upgraded officer body cameras, replacing the aged units.

Officers investigated two separate reports of a male individual committing indecent acts in a public park and at an area business. After investigation, a 34-year-old male was located and charged with two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct.

Officers investigated an incident where a tractor-trailer became stuck under the railroad overpass on Bridge Street, closing the road until it could be successfully removed.

During this reporting period, the department handled 378 incidents with 19 arrests. The breakdown is as follows:

Animal Problem – 6
Arrest on Warrants – 3
Assault – 22
Citizen Dispute – 6
Disorderly Conduct - 1
DLS – 4
Domestic related – 1

Drug Possession – 2
DUI – 2
Fraud – 3
Motor Vehicle Disturbance – 11
Noise Disturbance – 1
Suspicious Person or Circumstance – 31
Traffic Accident – 4
Trespassing – 3
Unlawful Restraint – 1
Vandalism – 1
All other – 276

DPW

- DPW has spent a significant amount of time on both the South Main Street and Sykes Mountain Avenue Projects
- DPW installed the barricades for on street dining
- DPW staff is grading and shaping gravel roads
- The Water Team is paving the water leak repair patches from the winter
- DPW is working closely with the state to implement new PFOAs regulations