

Significant Activity Report June 15, 2021

Department of Public Works

The DPW team has been very busy assisting the many large capital projects we have in town that are in various stages of implementation including South Main Street, Sykes Mountain Avenue, the VA Cutoff Bridge, and the State funded Maple Street Paving Project.

We have also been receiving bids for many services and equipment, which will be discussed at the upcoming Selectboard meeting. We have also been preparing to discuss Solid Waste at that same meeting

Hannah, along with Tracy, Lori Hirshfield, Matt Osborn, and Brad Vail participated in the Town's first 'Listening Session' dedicated to parking. That was a successful inaugural evening for us to work collaboratively with our community.

All members of the Public Works team are actively performing routine maintenance such as grading.

Our contractor is currently onsite repairing the worsening erosion issue at the Quechee Covered Bridge. We look forward to having that stabilized.

In other news, Hannah's cats are getting spayed today, so we can't expect any more adorable kitten pictures.

Town Clerk

We are still processing a lot of recording, planning for election and handling the many day to day inquiries and requests.

Parks & Recreation Department

Program and Park Highlights

- Park permits are continuing to consume a tremendous amount of staff time in and out of the office. To date as we begin to close out the current fiscal year 2020/2021 we have 182 permits compared to previous fiscal year 2019/2020 with 78 during COVID. COVID really had an impact on our public parks system with a huge increase in active usage compared to previous years. In 2018/2019 there were 84 permits and 2017/2018 a total of 90 permits. We expect permitted uses to continue as user groups and individuals continue to take advantage of our public park system for private and public gatherings and recreational activities. Host of Permits the past several weeks including North Country Community Theatre White River Indie Film Festival at Lyman Park. Parks

& Rec will be there with our screen at Lyman. Paul Mahoney Tai Chi, at Lyman, Hartford High School Tennis and the Upper Valley Nighthawks have arrived and are in town.

- Apple Corps continues with the construction of the Rain Garden installation at Lyman.
- Tree Board had their EAB Rally at Veterans Park on Saturday, May 22nd. Education on the EAB and treatment of 6 ash trees in the park.
- We have secured the safety netting project at Maxfield and await delivery of materials. The netting will cover 120ft down the left and right field of the baseball field. The staff began rehabilitating the Little League Field 4 and are now caught up on park mowing & string trimming.
- Summer camp staff continue professional training in preparation of the upcoming program starting June 14th.
- Conclusion of Spring Sports – Youth Baseball, Youth Softball, and Little Stick Lacrosse programs continues through June 12th. The Afterschool Programs (Lego Club and Afterschool in the Parks) concluded as well.
- Community events include our first summer concert took place on June 9th. The series of 10 concerts will be held each Wednesday, 6:30pm at Lyman Point Park Bandstand. The Department's first Movie in the Park will be held Friday, June 11th at Lyman Point Park.

Department of Planning and Development

The Taft's Flat Historic Preservation Properties Survey Project – Completed final report and grant fund requisition to close-out the Certified Local Grant for this informative survey project.

Parking in Downtown WRJ – Prepared and presented information for the community Listening Session on June 1st.

Historic Property Demolition Standards – Held virtual community meeting to discuss options for review of historic properties in Town prior to demolition such as to process to facilitate photo documentation and information on alternatives to demolition.

Town Forest Timber Harvest – Issued notice for Request for Proposals from logging companies to complete selective cutting of trees in the Town Forest that is part of the Town's Forest Management Plan. The harvest is planned for the 2021-2021 winter season when the ground is frozen to minimize land disturbance.

Climate Action Plan - Continued working with the Climate Advisory Committee and consultant on the draft plan.

Assessor

- Filed Abstract Grand List with Town Clerk
- Updated website with all real property values
- Began processing all new permits for the 2022 Grand List
- Reviewed additional Current Use files from the state
- Receiving grievance forms until June 16th
- Began analyzing property transfers for 2022 Common Level of Assessment

Police Department

The police department held its bid opening for the RFP on the emergency communications center furniture upgrade and has chosen a vendor to complete the project out of the 5 proposals received.

The police department has been continuing its ongoing recruitment efforts to fill vacancies within the department. A weekend military drill at the local reserve center was attended to conduct outreach in recruiting.

The VT Air National Guard's counterdrug analyst that is embedded within the police department has completed phase 1 of the digital intelligence course.

During this reporting period, the department handled 430 incidents with 17 arrests. The breakdown is as follows:

Animal Problem – 4

Arrest on Warrants – 2

Assault – 6

Citizen Dispute – 4

Disorderly Conduct – 1

Domestic related – 3

Larceny – 13

Motor Vehicle Disturbance – 8

Suspicious Person or Circumstance – 32

Traffic Accident – 8

Trespassing – 3

Vandalism – 3

All other – 343

Fire Department

1. Staff has been participating with the Lebanon and Hanover Fire Department in their annual high-angle rope training. The training was conducted on the UVAC property on the ledges behind the parking area. Staff practiced repelling, rescues and litter recovery.
2. The department participated in end of the school year events. Ladder 1 attended White River Schools field day activities and demonstrated the ladder waterway providing the children with a wet ending to the school day! The department participated in the Senior Parade at Hartford High School for our graduating seniors.
3. All fire department employees are beginning the process of their "Fit for Duty" physicals at APD Occupational health over the next few weeks.

4. The fire prevention office has been busy with all the ongoing construction in Town. They completed 24 inspections during this period.
5. The department has seen an increase in calls for service during this period. Staff responded to 117 calls this period.