

## **Significant Activity Report**

### **August 17, 2021**

#### **Public Works**

In the last few weeks, Public Works has been very focused on preparing for our upcoming capital paving projects. Town staff has been very busy procuring materials and supplies that are increasingly difficult (or impossible) and slow to obtain. Our Water Department completed the installation of a new waterline and services on West Gilson in preparation for the upcoming paving. Our Highway Department has also been busy installing new culverts and improved drainage on Runnals Road that will bring that very steep section of roadway into compliance with the stormwater regulations within our Municipal General Roads Permit. This work will reduce the chances of erosion and washouts while also minimize the amount of sediment entering our hydraulically connected waterways.

In addition to that work, all departments have been assisting the multiple large projects occurring around Town including on Sykes and the Maple Street Paving. Assisting these projects with utility support and location takes a significant amount of time both from the administration team, our Water Department, and Wastewater Department.

I continue to work on Solid Waste related items. In July, the Town received a Notice of Alleged Violation from the State of Vermont for minor items that were easily corrected and responded to within the deadline. However, the State also notified us that there is a provision within their Solid Waste regulations that require Solid Waste Management Entities to remove C&D waste within two years of the time that we stopped receiving it. However, I have communication from that same department from 2019 that clearly states that our accumulation of waste would be addressed through a closure plan, for which we currently have an open RFQ for. I will ensure that we keep everyone updated as we move forward.

In my last Significant Activities, I discussed our staffing situation. Our Highway Division is currently short three employees out of nine employees. We are actively advertising and holding interviews to fill those demanding roles. We currently have six interviews this week and hope that we can successfully welcome some new members to our team.

#### **Assessor**

- Processed homestead declarations and property transfers
- Assisted tax payers on property tax questions
- Reviewed the current tax maps and ortho imagery for accuracy
- Reported forms 411 and 427 to the state
- Budget analysis for future projections
- Analyzed current dam inventory and taxability of the Downer's Mill Dam

## Parks and Recreation

- Camp Ventures is finishing up the summer camp season with our 9<sup>th</sup> week. Fall Athletics Registrations are underway. Pop-up Theater Camp 8/9-8/13 with 23 participants. Hartford Performing Arts Camp took place the week of 8/2-8/6 - 53 Campers. Solid – Speed, Agility and Conditioning Training finished up 8/1 – 46 participants. Rocket Science Camp took place this week at the Town Hall – 11 participants. Thursday, Tails and Tales Summer Story Hour continues at Watson from 10am to 11am sponsored by the Hartford Library.
- Our Summer Entertainment Series included a performance by Brysan Lang on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Comedy Manipulator performed with our summer camp program. The performance was open to the public. Friday August 6<sup>th</sup> was our Movie in the Park. The movie, Tom and Jerry was held on our movie projection system at Lyman Park with over 100 in attendance.
- Permits continue to come in for park and facility usage. For the current fiscal year starting in July, we have 39 permitted uses. Regular permits consist of users like Open Door, Special Needs Support Center, Paul Mahoney Tai Chi, and Anne Bower Tai Chi Classes and White River Junction VA Employee Association and HCRS with functions and classes throughout each week.
- The exit covers for three exterior exits in the back end of the WABA facility are complete. This project was completed by Paul Davis Restoration for cost of materials only. The company donated all its labor for the project. The project was delayed for quite some time due to the availability of 8”by8” beams.
- Volunteers continue to assist in the Hurricane Recreation Reserve assisting with trail brush and tree removal due to several weather events in late July that cancelled the Hurricane Hill Trail Run. We plan to run the race on October 16<sup>th</sup> if we get the trails cleared. Parks crew have also hauled mulch to the entry of the trail head by the Monument Trail.
- Dylan Kreis, our Superintendent of Parks & Facilities will be leaving the Department on August 20<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank Dylan for his hard work and efforts in bringing the operations of our parks and facilities to very high level. Shane Barnes, a White River Junction resident who currently works for the Town of Enfield as their Buildings and Grounds Lead was hired as Dylan’s replacement. Shane will start on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The pool project continues to move forward with the placement of concrete on the pool floor and walls. They anticipate the pool shell to be complete by the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>. Following a period of time curing, the forms will be removed, and backfilling of the site will begin.

## **Town Clerk**

1. Prepared for and conducted the Special Election. Thanks to staff, the Board of Civil Authority Members and other Community Election Workers who supported the Clerk and assisted with this election. Thank you to all the candidates for stepping forward to offer to serve our community and we wish those elected well in their new positions.
2. We continue to receive a high volume of Land Records recording; the Clerk is working through a backlog after the flurry of activity surrounding the election.
3. In-person traffic has increased significantly for the various services the Clerk's office provides including: DMV Registration (RENEWALS only); Issuing Green Mountain Passports (State Park passes for those 62 & older or veterans); Notary Services; Marriage Licenses; resident deed requests and more.
4. The Clerk's Office will be CLOSED on FRIDAYS from August 13<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. We have notified the public and those who regularly use our office for research of the closures with help from other staff via social media, listserv and direct messaging in the Clerk's Office and to those who regularly use the Clerk's Office to mitigate any inconvenience caused by the Friday closures.
5. The Board of Civil Authority will be scheduling the Biennial Checklist Review in the coming weeks (must be completed by September 15<sup>th</sup>) and the Board of Abatement will meet sometime in September (dates to be determined and announced for both of these upcoming activities).

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The police department held its first ice cream social of the year at Lyman Point Park. Another ice cream social is being scheduled during the week of August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of VT Rte 14 for a report of two males passed out in a vehicle and unable to be awoken. The incident was subsequently an overdose situation. Both men were successfully treated and released. Charges forthcoming for drug possession and illegal possession of a firearm.

A Hartford officer-involved shooting is being investigated by the Vermont State Police after police responded to the unit block of Paula Street for a suspicious person refusing to leave. Officers responded to the 1500 block of Maple Street for an intoxicated male individual wielding a knife and threatening residents before jumping into the river and refusing to surrender. After a period, the male was successfully taken into custody and lodged at Southern State Correctional Facility after obtaining medical treatment.

The police department received a donation of infrared thermometers for each cruiser from Home Depot through the Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals. These devices will be used to check the inside temperature of vehicles if an animal is left within.

The police department received separate complaints over a brief period of an older male individual committing lewd acts in public areas. The 64yr old male with no fixed address was subsequently identified and charged with lewd and lascivious acts.

During this reporting period, the department handled 454 incidents with 16 arrests. The breakdown is as follows:

Animal Problem – 15  
Arrest on Warrants – 4  
Assault – 15  
Citizen Dispute – 13  
Disorderly Conduct – 1  
Domestic related – 3  
Fraud – 1  
Juvenile Problem – 8  
Kidnapping – 1  
Missing Person – 1  
MV Disturbance – 9  
Noise Disturbance – 8  
Suspicious Person or Circumstance – 37  
Theft of Motor Vehicle – 2  
Traffic Accident – 17  
Trespassing – 8

All other – 311

### **Department of Planning and Development**

- Wentworth 2 Housing Project – On August 11<sup>th</sup> 21 new units of affordable housing were celebrated with the ribbon cutting on Wentworth Way off Sykes Mountain Avenue. Four of the 21 units are on Route 5 in Wilder Village, a former Brownfield site that was cleaned up as part of the new development. The project was partially financed with a \$247,240 Vermont Community Development grant that came through the Town.
- Lt Governor Molly Gray – Joined the Lt Governor on her *Recover Stronger Tour* of Downtown WRJ discussing Hartford's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Program projects and general COVID recovery needs.
- Town Forest – Posted a revised Requested for Proposals for a selective tree harvesting project. Proposals are due September 7<sup>th</sup>. Also pursuing directional signage to assist the local community to access the Town Forest.
- Housing – Continued working with members of the Town's Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency Shelter regarding options.
- Hartford Growth Center Designation – Gathered data for the 2020 5-year update of the designation granted in March 2010 and updated in 2015; draft report submittal due to the state in September and final due in November.