

Significant Activity Report

May 17, 2022

Town Clerk

1. The Clerk, four BCA members and the Town/School Moderator attended trainings for the new voting tabulators/machines. The training was well presented by LHS (this is the same company the State contracted with for the previous tabulators. They have been a great resource when any issues have arisen surrounding our elections. We are pleased the State chose to stay with LHS. LHS has also printed our Town & School Meeting Ballots. The Clerk and BCA will plan to have some in-house training sessions for election workers to review the tabulator functions and how to best assist voters with the new equipment as well as the navigating the new voting districts in advance of the upcoming Primary on August 9, 2022. We will be in full election mode shortly.
2. The Clerk met with Charter Commission member, Lynn Bohi, to discuss the portion of the Charter related to the Clerk Office role and functions.
3. The Clerk is catching up on some voter checklist updates stalled during the Re-districting Street change process.
4. The Town and School Meeting Committee met in early May and plans to meet again in early June as they look ahead to the 2023 Town and School Meeting Cycle.
5. The Board of Abatement will be meeting on Monday, May 23rd to hear request for Abatement.

Parks & Recreation Department

Program and Park Highlights

- The Department continues to solicit and interview for summer seasonal positions. We have secured several key positions and looking to fill lifeguard slots. Most require the full Lifeguard Training Certification. We hope to close the gap on pool hires within the next week.
- The pool project continues to move along now that warmer weather has arrived this week. The slide is installed and all the ground water features. South Shore has completed the tile work and the concrete is being washed and prepared for plastering. We anticipate the plastering to be completed and the pool filled by the end of this week. Testing of the mechanical systems will be the next step toward completion.
- All our spring sports are in full operation with practices and games. We have a total of 241 youth participating in spring sport programs.
- The Golf Clinics for adults continue to be very popular programs this spring season.
- We are working with many of the pickleball participants that would like to see additional courts at Maxfield. The group is eager to raise funds to purchase new nets. We plan to paint 4 additional courts. The courts will be painted on the tennis courts so pickleball and tennis can both use the courts.
- The Kilowatt Boat Landing is now open for the season. Considerable washout near the ramp required us to install a bed of rock to smooth out several sinkhole locations. The docks will soon go in so boats can launch for river access.

- Staff have been busy out at Maxfield finishing baseball and softball skinned infield work. We have been edging the turf and adding infield material. Windscreens to go up soon on the tennis/pickleball courts.
- The RFP for our replacement vehicle resulted in only one commercial bid. Both Ford and Chevy fleet manufacturing has been stalled. Dodge was able to comply to our RFP and we anticipate delivery within the next 10 weeks.

Assessor

- Annual database audits for 2022 grand list (exemptions, owner info, subsidized housing, transfers, etc.)
- Reviewing value changes for 2022 grand list
- Annual review of utility values
- Processing homestead declarations and current use changes
- Assessor completed appraisal standards instructor recertification

Department of Planning and Development

- Clifford Park Food Forest Planting – Assisted the Resilient Hartford Committee on the April 30th Food Forest tree planting community event in Clifford Park. Over 30 community members came out to help plant 20 fruit and nut trees. This second event followed the establishment of the Food Forest with the first planting last fall.
- May 7th Hartford Green-up Day – This was again a very successful annual event for Hartford which would not be possible without strong community participation. We will include statistics of people participating and tons of trash collected on the next Department report.
- Planning and Zoning Public Hearings – Continued comprehensive review of new applications for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment Public Hearings on May 23rd and 24th, respectively. Began writing Findings of Fact Reports for distribution next week.
- South Main, North Main and Gates Streets TIF Project - Working with the State and the VT Bond Bank to close out Phase 1 water, wastewater and stormwater State loans, and finalizing documents to execute Phase 2 loans.
- Property Development – Continued to respond to information requests and development inquiries, review building permit applications for improvements to properties, process permit applications, and conduct site visits/issue Certificates of Occupancy for completed projects.
- New General Commercial Residential Zoning District Proposal – Continued researching and drafting language for ongoing Planning Commission discussions for the Ballardvale Drive/Jasmine Street and RT 5 area.

Fire Department

Incident Log:

Calls for Service 04/29/22-05/13/22	90		
Incident Type Categories			
Fires	1		
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion	0		
Rescue/Medical	68		
Hazardous Conditions	1		
Service Calls	11		
Good Intent	2		
False Alarm	7		
Weather Emergency	0		
Special Incident/Other	0		

The Fire Prevention Office completed 81 inspections during this period. Including numerous liquor license renewal inspections, new construction, and existing buildings.

Renovation of the living quarters at Station 1 are completed.

The department is preparing to assist with the medical coverage at the Covered Bridges Half Marathon.

Collaborated with Dana Clawson, Energy Sustainability Coordinator, on Station 2 renovation project design scoping for CIP proposals.

Department of Public Works

We have a washout on South Street that we are addressing.

We are continuing our outreach for the startup of Phase two of the South main Street project.

Some employees from Water and Wastewater attended training at the lake Morey Resort.

Continue working on our gravel roads and ditching.

Continuing drainage remedy plans for sidewalk at Butternut and Mascoma bank.

Investigating the drainage issues at Holiday Drive and Sykes Ave.

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

-The Hartford Energy Commission has been putting a lot of effort into letting the community know about their Window Dresser's build this fall. Recently HEC members have been tabling at the Haven, dropping off outreach materials at Listen and The Food Coop, and collaborating with Window Dresser builds in surrounding communities on outreach and logistics.

-The Town has started the process of upgrading the modems in the EV charging stations located in the downtown parking lot. AT&T recently upgraded their network in Vermont, going from 4G to 5G, and this had led to problems with Charge Points network in some areas. Our chargers continue to work, but the upgrade will avoid any issues from the AT&T network going forward.

-Warmer weather is here, and in addition to people opening windows, we opened the vents in the Town Hall basement with help from the DPW. At some point there was foam board and rock wool (insulation) installed over the vents in the Town Hall basement. While this was likely done stop cold air from getting into the basement in the winter, the basement was designed to breath, and anyone that has used the door on the side of Town Hall in the summer has probably smelled the results, damp, stale, moist, smelling air rising up from the basement. Hopefully removing the insulation will be enough to avoid this issue this summer.

- The Water Department has identified an electric mower and hedge trimmer that they are acquiring to for the Fresh Water and Waste Water plants. In addition to lowering the greenhouse gas associated with the upkeep of those lawns, this will also make doing the job easier. In the past DPW staff had to bring in a mower for the day and then take it back to another location because they weren't allowed to store gas powered tools on site because of the possibility of contaminating the water with fuel. The electric tools will be stored on site making it easier to mow.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Our Police Social Worker, Kelsi Nanatovich, officially starts on Monday May 16. However, she has been in the department this week getting settled. We are very excited to finally have this position filled again. We are looking forward to a great partnership with Kelsi!

Detectives continue to work on the shooting that occurred at the Super 8 hotel on April 22, 2022.

Several officers completed testimony in significant jury trial.

Patrol responded to a report of a suspicious subject, while in route to the call, it was learned the subject stole a vehicle from the premise. A short pursuit ensued and was called off. The vehicle was located, and the operator fled the scene on foot. The subject was later taken into custody after being located by a K9 track.

Animal Bite – 2

Animal Problem – 15

Citizen Assists – 14

Citizen Dispute – 4

Family Disturbances – 4

Fraud – 4

Juvenile Problem – 11

MV Disturbance – 9

Noise Disturbance – 34

Suspicious Person or Circumstance – 31

Traffic Accident – 18

Welfare Checks - 14

All other calls - 224