

Significant Activity Report January 24, 2022

Town Clerk

1. The Board of Abatement held four tax abatement hearings on January 12th. The B o A granted three abatements and denied one.
2. Voter Backed petitions were due by 5pm on Thursday, January 19th. The Clerk received & verified petition signatures on six petitions for Social Service Agencies by the deadline.
3. The Justice of the Peace Organizational and Orientation Meeting will be held Monday, January 30th at 5:30pm in room 2 at Town Hall.
4. The reminder postcards to voters regarding voting by Early/Absentee Ballots were sent out on Friday, January 13th. As of January 19th, we have received over 200 requests for ballots. Ballots will be available by February 15th in the Clerk's office per State Statute. The Clerk's will mail out ballots to those who have requested ballots by mail on or about February 15th and thereafter as additional voter requests are received. Voters may request ballots online <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> or, by contacting the Clerks at 802-295-2785; e-mailing at loneil@hartford-vt.org or swest@hartford-vt.org. Voters may also vote in the Town Clerk's office beginning February 15th through Noon on Monday, March 6th, or in-person at the polling location on Tuesday, March 7th from 7am-7pm (Hartford High School Gymnasium). The drop box will be available from February 15th through March 6th (the box will be CLOSED at 5pm on March 6th; after this time, all ballots will need to be brought to the polling location on election day to be counted). Any ballots returned via mail must arrive by close of business on March 6th to be counted.
5. Candidate petitions are due in the Town Clerk's Office by 5pm on Monday, January 30th for placement on the Town or School District Ballot for the March 7th election. A Candidate Consent form and a petition containing at least 30 valid Hartford voter signatures are required: <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/candidates/local-office-candidates/>. A list of open positions can be viewed at https://www.hartford-vt.org/T4_R26.php
6. Dog licenses are available in the Town Clerk's Office. In Vermont, all dogs aged six months or older are required to be licensed. A current Rabies Certificate is also required. The fees are \$9.00 if spayed/neutered; \$13.00, if not.

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

-The ESC and Hartford Energy Commission have been working with Energy Committees from other towns to put together an energy fair on April 1st at Listen's White River Junction location. This event will include representatives from Efficiency Vermont, Cover, local solar companies, and more. HEC hopes that the event will both fun and informative. Given the recent and forthcoming changes to energy saving incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act we hope this event will provide residents with up to date information and organizations that can help them navigate some of the more nuanced and convoluted incentive processes.

- Conversations around holding a Window Dressers build in 2023 have started. HEC members and other local Energy Committees met recently to discuss what this might look like and how many inserts they plan to make so that Window Dressers, the nonprofit organization, can start to order materials. After the success of last years build we are looking forward to another one later this year.

Department of Public Works

Highway:

Test pits on Fairview Terrace completed for Engineer.
Continuing storm cleanup involving trees.
Plowed and sanded routes multiple time in the last two weeks.
Investigating solution for water/ice problems on V.A. Cutoff road and Christian Street.
Damaged guardrail on Christian replaced.
Assisted Water Department with water leak on Cascadnac.
Repaired potholes all around town.
Assisted Landfill Department.

Water:

1/13/2023 Report of a leak @ 8B Coach Road – Was informed it was located and could be controlled.
1/16/2023 Called in to locate curb for 8B Coach Road, leak was not under control.
1/16/2023 Called in for 56 Maplewood Terrace, Leak before the main shut off valve.
1/16/2023 Called in for a leak at the intersection of Cascadnac and Hazen Street.
Updated The Lead Copper Line Inventory.
Finish meter readings.
Assisted Highway and Landfill as needed.

Wastewater WRJ:

Replaced all air filters on all the blowers at the treatment plant.
Installed new head lights on W-11
Performed routine maintenance at all ten pump stations.
Patched roof at Wilder pump station
Performed routine maintenance at the treatment plant.
Ski Door Company is expected back to install new garage door motor.
Champlain Company installed new starter and alternator. Process Water system is now fixed.
Roy's Refrigeration fixed one boiler blow off valve.
Dewatered 250,000 gallons of sludge.
Dewatered 24,000 gallons of sludge brought in from Quechee.
Champlain Company installed new float control in wet well.
Sewer call on 7 Beach Street, jetted sewer main.
Sewer call on 177 Fern Street, checked sewer main OK.
Sewer call on 249 Hill Crest Street, checked sewer main OK.
Wastewater Dept. plowing and salting Land Fill.

Wastewater Quechee:

Distill water for WRJ and Quechee Plants.
Maintenance on big Kubota tractor.
Dump run.
Labs/Plant checks.
Haul sludge and analyze.
Snow removal and keeping the sidewalk at covered bridge sanded/salted.
Work on process water pumps.
Reprogram control panels at pump stations.
Work on AUMA valve actuators.
Update WR43 reports forms.
Clean Dartmouth pump stations scum and grease.

Help Quechee Lakes identify sewer lines.
 Work with Alliance on PM at plant.
 Final Inspections.
 Work on SCADA remote access issues.

Fire Department

Incident Log:

Calls for Service 1/5/23-1/18/23	80		
Incident Type Categories			
Fires	0		
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion	0		
Rescue/Medical	63		
Hazardous Conditions	3		
Service Calls	10		
Good Intent	2		
False Alarm	2		
Weather Emergency	0		
Special Incident/Other	0		

Members of the department along with members from Lebanon and Hanover attended a Mental Health for first responders’ program. We anticipate holding a similar program that focuses on spouses of first responders.

The fire prevention office completed training with the Division of Fire Safety and the Department of Health on the coming additional role of enforcement of the Health Code. The department is pleased to announce two new births in the fire department family. Congratulations to Fire Marshal Tom Peltier on the birth of his daughter Eleanor and Lt. Will Laliberty on the birth of his son Charles!

Parks & Recreation

Program and Park Highlights

- Hartford Parks & Recreation received \$4200 dollars from Mascoma Bank to support 2023’s youth sports, special events and programs. We are grateful for Mascoma Bank for their continues support.
- The Department held our first After School at Whaleback Skiing Program. We transport participants to Whaleback with our van where they receive a lesson and ski afterwards. We have 12 youth enrolled in the program.
- With the start of our K2 and Pre-K Youth Basketball this past week, we now have 215 youth participating in basketball.
- Our first MLK Pop Up event took place on Martin Luther King Holiday. We maxed out with 12 youth in the program.

- Lego Club, Boardgame Club continue throughout the week. We also started our Learn to Swim Program with White River School. This is a collaborative with the Upper Valley Aquatic Center and Parks & Recreation.
- Our Kids Paper Crafting Class led by our own Karen McNall made a total of 34 all occasion cards that the class donated to the Upper Valley Haven.
- The Department is busy planning for the upcoming No School Fun Day and Ice Fishing Clinic scheduled for January 24th. Additionally, we are preparing for the Annual Free Youth Ice Fishing Derby at Dewey's Pond on February 4th and the RedZone 5K and Valentines Dance for Daughters and Sons scheduled for February 11th. Ledyard Bank is again the lead sponsor of the upcoming RedZone 5K on Saturday, February 11th. The \$700 sponsorship supports the race with proceeds benefiting the Brian Hanson Scholarship Fund.
- The Parks & Recreation Commission continue to review the potential updates to the Parks Ordinance and at their last meeting the board reviewed the Parks & Recreation Administrative Manual.
- At the recent Hartford Tree Board Meeting, January 17th the members discussed the submission of an Urban Forestry Canopy Grant for invasive plant control and new tree planting. They also discussed continued treatment of several public Ash Trees to combat the Emerald Ash Borer which has made its way into the central Vermont.
- As of January 19th we have sold 1,527 daily admissions, rented 658 skates, sharpened 110 pair of skates and have had 140 Friday noontime hockey players. Passholder admissions has reached over 600 visits.

Department of Planning and Development Highlights

- TIF Program – Completed and submitted to the state draft of Hartford's TIF District Annual Report. Hartford State House representatives are finalizing the language to extend the District's period to incur debt and collect tax increment, for submittal this week. The Town's Senators will submit a similar bill after the House bill is received.
- Parking Survey – From January 23rd to February, staff will be undertaking the annual winter parking survey in Downtown White River Junction. This is one of three parking surveys done every year. Parking occupancy by sections are counted during different times of the week and day, and when different activities are occurring. This information is helpful when evaluating parking impact from new development, and guiding parking management plans for the future.
- Housing– Planning continues with Vital Communities, TRORC and other regional partners to sponsor a May 2023 Upper Valley information and technical resource workshop for people interested in learning about and/or develop Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on their properties. Town staff development of a Hartford specific ADU program continued with the kick-off to occur with the regional workshop. Also continued planning for the first community meeting in February for the Town Plan Housing Chapter update.
- Property Development Applications – Issued a Zoning permit for the development of 42 units of multi-family housing on the final lot along Prospect Street. The department continued to assist applicants regarding general inquiries and submittal of Zoning/Building permit applications; review/approve building/zoning and design review applications; and conduct inspections of completed projects for issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.

- Town Forest Timber Harvest – The Town Forest timber harvest is coming along in spite of the warm weather and rain which have stopped work on several occasions. To date, the cutting is 75% complete with colder weather needed to haul out the cut logs from the forest. On Saturday, January 7th, the Conservation Commission sponsored a walk in the Town Forest with the forester and logger to discuss the timber harvest. On January 24th, the Conservation Commission also sponsored a natural history walk in the Town Forest. Both events were attended by 25+ people.

Assessor

- Attended in the Abatement meeting
- Presented the Equalization Study for the Selectboard
- Attended Selectboard budget meetings
- Attended a Vermont Association of Listers and Assessors (VALA) meeting
- Regular office work including property transfers, processing permits, and assisting the public.

HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 17th, officers responded to the discovery of the body of a female subject at the Casella recycling facility. The deceased has been identified and the preliminary autopsy result has ruled the caused of death to be undetermined, but it is believed to be accidental. The investigation is ongoing.

January 19th, HPD assisted the Attorney General's office with the arrest of a subject from Hartland for possession of child sex abuse materials.

January 19th, HPD assisted the US Marshalls Office in attempting to locate a subject with an outstanding warrant for a federal probation violation.

We are also assisting PA state police with a double homicide investigation that took place in Philadelphia.

Nature of Incident	Total Incidents
-----	-----
911 Hangup Call	17
Abandoned Vehicle	2
Agency Assistance	11
Animal Problem	5
Background Investigation	1
Burglary Alarm	22
Citizen Assist	10
Citizen Dispute	4
Condition of Release Violation	1
Traffic Accident with Damage	5
Traffic Accident with Injuries	1
Custodial Dispute	1
Untimely	1
Breathing Difficulty	1
Directed Patrol	178

Disorderly Conduct/Noise	2	
Driving - License Suspended	1	
Controlled Substance Problem	1	
Family Fight/Domestic	5	
Foot Patrol	16	
Found Property	1	
Fraud	2	
Gunshot Victim	1	
Harassment	1	
Dumping	2	
Information Report	3	
Juvenile Problem	1	
Lock Down Drill	1	
Mental Health Emergency		4
Motor Vehicle Complaint		10
Noise Disturbance	2	
Overdose	1	
Panic Alarm	2	
Paperwork Service	13	
Phone Problem /Harrasment		1
Restraining Order	2	
Seizure	2	
Sexual Assault	1	
Special Detail	2	
Attempted Suicide	1	
Suicide Threat	2	
Suspicious Person	7	
Suspicious Person/Circumstance		16
Theft	9	
Threatening	3	
Traffic Hazard	2	
Trespassing	2	
Unlawful Mischief	4	
VIN Number Inspection		4
Wanted Person	3	
Welfare Check	9	