

# Significant Activity Report

## August 8, 2023

### Assessor

- Met with Various Taxpayers to Review Property Assessments
- Began review of flood-damaged real estate.
- Took vacation week of July 24.
- Received Letter from State of Vermont for Town Reappraisal order

### Assistant Assessor

- Every Monday until November 1<sup>st</sup> running the homestead reports and reviewing other state reports ( Current Use applications or withdrawals). Received 2<sup>nd</sup> file of state homestead payments.
- Assisted Various Taxpayers with questions on Tax Bills (real values, homestead, payments, HS122 etc.)
- Started processing Property Tax Transfers that were recorded after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, as part of maintenance work for 2024 Grand List.

### Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

- -The Hartford Energy Commission lost two Commissioners last week, Molly Dunn and Ashton Todd both moved out of Hartford recently and had to resign. Molly and Ashton played a large role in the work that the Energy Commission has done in recent years, and they will be missed. Luckily, they are not moving far and will continue to volunteer on occasions with the Energy Commission.
- - Vermont Works for Women's Trailblazers green construction training program is happening August 8<sup>th</sup>-September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hartford Area Career and Technical Center. They currently have 14 students and are trying to enroll a couple more. New students won't be enrolled after August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- -Town Hall and the White Junction Wastewater Facility had their bi-annual proactive maintenance cleanings on their HVAC systems. During these visits technicians replace belts and filters, clean the systems, check fluid levels, and identify any issues that the system is having. The pro-active maintenance visits help to avoid unexpected catastrophic systems failures like Town Hall experienced recently and also keep systems running efficiently and lower our building emissions.
- -The Hartford Energy Commission received a mini-grant of \$4,000 through the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program for community outreach and events. Members of the Energy Commission are hoping to use these funds to provide outreach and education on the energy efficiency incentives that are available to Vermonters for home improvements and EV vehicles.

- -Members of the Hartford Energy Commission and other volunteers have started taking measurements for window inserts that will be built at this year's Window Dresser's Build. This year's build will be October 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> at Damon Hall in Hartland.

## **Department of Public Works**

### **Administration**

Continued with coordination and assessment of infrastructure repairs related to the July 9-10 storm event.

Attended FEMA's initial Public Assistance workshop in Springfield on August 1.

Upon recommendation from Tim Schaal, opened the pedestrian walkway on the Quechee covered.

Held bid opening on July 31 for Ottaquechee Riverbank slope stabilization repair project.

In coordination with Acting Town Manager, reviewed and awarded bid for riverbank stabilization project to lowest responsible bidder.

Met with a State representative from Rivers and Stream Division regarding River Road regarding what repairs can be made to minimize future damage to the road.

Participated in tour at the WRJ wastewater treatment plant with town Energy and others regarding potential use of thermal energy generated by the treatment plant.

Coordinated with VTrans the public informational meeting regarding VTrans rehabilitation project for the Quechee Gorge Bridge.

Participated in staff training for new website.

Attended the Planning and Development meeting for the proposed housing development project on Skyes Mountain Drive.

### **Highway Division:**

Storm damage assessment all around Town.

Finished ditching and stone lining ditches on Dothan Road.

Grading all our gravel roads from washouts.

Opened up a portion of River Road from Taftsville Bridge to Otis Road.

Roadside mowing continues.

Currently working on VA Cutoff Road ditching and stone lining ditches.

Working on storm damage with FEMA.

Attended FEMA briefing.

Ditched a small portion of Quechee Main Street.

Multiple equipment repairs.

## **Water Division:**

Took Perkins Place off of Boil water notice on 7/19/2023.

Assisted Notts Excavation with Tie In on 7/27, 7/28 and 7/29/2023.

Started reading meters for Wilder Area 8/1/2023.

Took last sample for Lead and Copper 8/1/2023.

Took first round of Bacteria Sample for August.

Assisted Notts with chlorinating and flushing new line on 7/31 8/1 and 8/2/2023.

Evan was out on Vacation from 7/27 – 7/30/2023.

Marked out valves for Fairview Terrace/Gates Street Water Main Construction 8/2/2023.

## **WRJ Pollution Abatement Plant**

White River treatment plant power outage on 7/9/2023, wet well flooded, problems with Influent pumps.

Called Champlin Associates 7/9/2023 about Influent pumps.

7/10/2023 Champlin Associates replaced transducer and one float.

Due to 7/10 rain event, average daily flow was 2.376MGD compared to normal average daily flow of 0.500MGD. Experienced numerous issues with wet wells and plugged pumps.

Experienced issues with pump station control panel located at Aquatic Center pump station and engaged Champlin Associates to diagnose issue. Potential replacement of control panel might be required.

Sent in June 2023 State Reports.

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter biosolids testing for PCB's and metals.

Dewatered 250,000 gallons of sludge.

Met with Manosh regarding sludge hauling from the Quechee treatment plant.

Dewatered 25,000 gallons of sludge brought in from Quechee treatment plant.

Hauled all dewatered biosolids and grit to Lebanon land fill.

Performed routine maintenance at all ten wastewater pump stations.

Working with Nott's on by-pass pumping Ferry Boat pump station. (Hartford Village new bridge)

Locate and marked out sewer mains.

Call in : Helping Highway Dept. jetted culvert on Wildlife Road.7/13/2023

Call in : Alarm at treatment plant, power outage and wet well flooded 7/16/2023

## **Quechee Pollution Abatement Plant**

Welcomed former town employee, Tom Coates as the new part-time Assistant Chief Operator.

Petroleum was observed in our influent and reported to DPW Director, Fire Department, and the State.

Subsequent site visits were made by the VT HazMat team and our local Fire Department.

All the secondary pump stations were checked for petroleum and found to be free of odor and sheen. This indicated that the source was from the gravity lines feeding the Quechee Main Station.

Sorbent booms were deployed throughout the facility to prevent any discharge into the Ottaquechee River.

A source investigation was performed with the assistance of the Fire Department's confined-space entry meter. The source was determined to be localized to the Waterman Hill Rd / River Street area and a memo was prepared on 07/28/23 and forwarded to the State outlining the event and actions taken to mitigate any environment impact.

Continue working on correcting minor observations made during VLCT's workplace risk assessment.

Dillon has visited regarding electronic storage. He is working toward updating our storage system.

## **Solid Waste Facility**

Notified the DPW Director of a potential unauthorized hazardous material that was discovered in the hazardous material building.

DPW Director contacted Fire Chief who contacted state hazmat and coordinated with federal and state agencies with the identification and removal of material.

Assisted Upper Valley Solid Waste District with Hazardous Material drop off day on July 22. A total of 226 vehicles with 76 vehicles from Hartford participating in the event.

## **Fire Department**

The fire department had a busy week assisting with the flood response to the community and our region. As part of an MOU agreement with the State we provided swift water rescue standby and response during the weeklong event.

The Fire Marshal has been conducting numerous inspections relating to the flood damage while continuing his regular inspections and plans review.

The department interviewed two candidates for deputy fire marshal. We hope to announce a decision shortly.

Chief Cooney met with Community Nurse Connection to discuss the concept of a community nurse. We plan to arrange a presentation for a future Selectboard meeting

# Incident Type Report (Summary) Date Range: From 07/01/2023 to 07/31/2023 Company: All

Companies

Incident Type	Count		Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Total Est Loss
<b>1 Fire</b>					
<b>Totals 0 0.00% \$0 0.00%</b>					
<b>2 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (no fire)</b>					
200 Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat other 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
223 Air or gas rupture of pressure or process vessel 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
<b>Totals 3 1.20% \$0 0.00%</b>					
<b>3 Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Service Incident</b>					
311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew 12	4.82%	\$0 0.00%			
3111 Called Paramedic Intercept. 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
320 Emergency medical service incident, other 6	2.41%	\$0 0.00%			
321 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 140	56.22%	\$0 0.00%			
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries 4	1.61%	\$0 0.00%			
324 Motor vehicle accident with no injuries. 4	1.61%	\$0 0.00%			
363 Swift water rescue 3	1.20%	\$0 0.00%			
365 Watercraft rescue 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
381 Rescue or EMS standby 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
<b>Totals 172 69.08% \$0 0.00%</b>					
<b>4 Hazardous Condition (No Fire)</b>					
411 Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
413 Oil or other combustible liquid spill 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
431 Radiation leak, radioactive material 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
444 Power line down 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
460 Accident, potential accident, other 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
462 Aircraft standby 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
<b>Totals 8 3.21% \$0 0.00%</b>					
<b>5 Service Call</b>					
500 Service Call, other 4	1.61%	\$0 0.00%			
520 Water problem, other 4	1.61%	\$0 0.00%			
553 Public service 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
554 Assist invalid 6	2.41%	\$0 0.00%			
561 Unauthorized burning 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
<b>Totals 18 7.23% \$0 0.00%</b>					
<b>6 Good Intent Call</b>					
600 Good intent call, other 4	1.61%	\$0 0.00%			
611 Dispatched & canceled en route 7	2.81%	\$0 0.00%			
622 No incident found on arrival at dispatch address 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
631 Authorized controlled burning 3	1.20%	\$0 0.00%			
671 HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
<b>Totals 17 6.83% \$0 0.00%</b>					
<b>7 False Alarm &amp; False Call</b>					
700 False alarm or false call, other 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
733 Smoke detector activation due to malfunction 6	2.41%	\$0 0.00%			
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction 2	0.80%	\$0 0.00%			
736 CO detector activation due to malfunction 1	0.40%	\$0 0.00%			
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional 4	1.61%	\$0 0.00%			
744 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional 3	1.20%	\$0 0.00%			
745 Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional 4	1.61%	\$0 0.00%			

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## Hartford Fire Department Incident Type Report (Summary) Date Range: From 07/01/2023 to 07/31/2023 Company: All Companies

Incident Type	Count		Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Total Est Loss
746 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	0.40%	\$0	0.00%	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9.24%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
<b>8 Severe Weather &amp; Natural Disaster</b>					
812 Flood assessment	8	3.21%	\$0	0.00%	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3.21%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
<b>9 Special Incident Type</b>					
<b>Totals 0 0.00% \$0 0.00%</b>					
<b>Totals 249 \$</b>					

## **Parks & Recreation**

### **Program and Park Highlights**

- Summer Camp Ventures completed week 6 and week 7. Half of the Ventures Program meet at the Hartford Middle School. An electrical storm struck the school and fried the fire alarm system. This displaced 40 campers but they were quickly moved to Hartford High School and will remain there through the Camp Ventures Program. One more week is left.
- Swim lessons continue at the Sherman Manning Aquatic Facility on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Pool attendance has been good, between various weather events.
- Teen Adventure Getaways included a trip to Strategy Zone for Outdoor Lazer Tag and Sunapee Beach. The all-day adventure trips included admission, transportation and supervision by our staff.
- Thursday Teen Night's at the Sherman Manning Aquatic Facility have been popular with an average of 30 to 50 teens in attendance.
- Track and Field had their state meet at St. Johnsbury Academy on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over 32 youth participated in the meet from Hartford, and we received 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Small Town Division.
- Adult Softball, Pickleball, Youth Karate, Summer Flag Football, School of Golf, Archery, are programs that continued throughout the past two weeks.
- Hartford Performing Arts Camp at Hartford High School took place July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>. The program included 50 participants who were able to select participation in band and/or musical theatre as well as an arts elective. The full day, weeklong camp for participants in grades 5 through 8 ended with a community performance.
- A meeting with Lannie Collins took place to discuss the Small-Town Hero Flags. It is hopeful to have the program in place soon so they can be put up.
- The Department held interviews for the open Park Laborer position. It is hopeful to have an offer presented within a week or so. We have interviewed 3 qualified candidates of which 2 candidates are currently working in neighboring municipalities.
- We are working with three (3) Eagle Scouts on various projects in the parks. Ben Johnsen is constructing a Portable Toilet Shelter which will be place at Kilowatt South. The shelter will be used to cover the portable toilet, giving it a nicer looking appearance. Evan Lynds completed a restoration of the WB Brown Memorial at Hurricane Hill Recreation Reserve. The project included tree trimming, planting of a fruit tree, installing mulch and laying out a pathway along with cleaning up the monument. Payton Bessette is working on a restoration of the Fruit Stand Cemetery which is an inactive cemetery near the Sharon Town Line in West Hartford. Payton will be replacing and painting fencing, tree trimming and general cleanup. All three young Scouts have done great work as the plan and implement their projects and we appreciate their work and effort to give back to the community.
- The Department continues to assess flood damage. The middle pathway of Quechee Falls Park is now open. We await assessing cleanup options on the lower section as feet of silt needs to be removed from the site. We are awaiting a fencing contractor to provide

an estimate and determine if a temporary fence can be used for the lower section that was destroyed. Dewey's landing remains closed until the State Forest Parks & Recreation can assess and remove debris along the pathway between the landing and rivers edge of Dewey's. The Dewey Mill Road access is now open and available for kayaking, canoeing and anglers.

- Park Permits continued throughout the past couple weeks. We anticipate a large crowd at Lyman Park on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> for the Bernie Sanders visit with performing artist Grace Potter. We have issued a permit for the event. The Sheriff's Department is working with Hartford Police Department on assessing various needs as it is anticipated there may be a large crowd.
- Some of the landscape at Ratcliffe Park was transformed into youth bike track designed for all ages of youth and aimed at improving access to dirt trails and bike handling skills primarily for kids under the age of 7. The bike track uses existing landscape and existing materials to make the track rideable and visible. The project is a collaborative with Notorious D.I.G, which is a volunteer organization whose mission is to improve access and opportunities for recreation. A grand opening of the track will take place on September 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:30pm with music, food and biking around the track. A big thank you goes to Emily Strizich for seeing this voluntary project through. The existing park landscape provided amazing results and created an alternative recreational use of Ratcliffe Park.

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

- July Sever Storms – Participating in and responding to daily needs of the Town's Emergency Operations Team and community inquiries. Messaging information about flood resources. Reviewing all known impacted properties to determine if Town Special Flood Hazard Area and Zoning permits are required.
- Town Plan Housing Chapter Update – Staff continued work on draft housing goals, strategies and actions for the chapter update.
- Land Development Review and Permits: Held Public Hearing on July 26<sup>th</sup> for 5 applications approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Public Hearing on July 31<sup>st</sup> for 9 applications approved by the Planning Commission. Continued to assist the community regarding inquiries on development and permitting process, and conducted inspections of completed projects for issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.
- Downtown WRJ Parking Lot Reconstruction: Working with property owners to set up temporary parking areas for use during construction starting at the end of the summer. There will be a community meeting prior to construction starting to review parking and the construction process.
- WRJ Streetscape Improvements: In partnership with Parks and Recreation, 4 large planters were placed in the downtown area and 3 new street trees were planted on North Main Street.

## Hartford Police Department

The first Ice Cream Social in collaboration with HCC occurred Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

HPD Command Staff worked with Sheriff Palmer to organize his traffic/security detail around Senator Sanders and Grace Potter's event at Lyman Park.

Hartford Avenue speed study preliminary results:

Dates: June 20 – July 15

Locations: Hartford Ave – south of Bugbee Street and north of Bugbee Street

Direction of travel: Both north and south-bound traffic was studied in both locations.

Total vehicles: 87,827

Total in compliance with the posted speed limit: 57,798 or approx. 61%

Total traveling within 0-10mph over the posted speed limit: 32,564 or approx. 37%

Total traveling 10-20mph over the posted speed limit: 1,430 or approx. 1.6%

Total traveling 20+ mph: 35 or approx. .4%

Busiest times of day: 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Conclusion: Approx. 98% of vehicles on Hartford Avenue either comply with the posted speed limit or are what is considered traveling at "low risk" speeds of 0-10. The data collection program parameters determine rankings of low risk (0-10 over), medium risk (10-20 over), and high risk (20+ over). These low, medium, and high-risk labels are data collection points and only consider vehicle speed in relation to the posted speed limit. Factors such as road conditions, design, width, school proximity, number of crosswalks, and location (rural, neighborhood, highway) are not considered. As expected, the heaviest traffic levels are seen between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

HPD calls for service: July 2 – July 15

Nature of Incident	Total Incidents
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Agency: Hartford Police Department	
911 Hangup Call	15
Abandoned Vehicle	1
Agency Assistance	11
Animal Problem	7
Attempt to Locate	1
Burglary Alarm	16
Car Fire	1
Child Abuse or Neglect	2
Citizen Assist	18
Citizen Dispute	8
Court Time	1
Traffic Accident with Damage	10
Custodial Dispute	3
Directed Patrol	119
Disorderly Conduct/Noise	1
Driving - License Suspended	1
Family Fight/Domestic	5



Foot Patrol	6
Found Property	4
Dumping	1
Information Report	2
Juvenile Problem	3
Litter/Pollution/Public Health	1
Lost Property	1
Medical Emergency	2
Missing Person	1
Motor Vehicle Complaint	17
Noise Disturbance	5
Panic Alarm	2
Paperwork Service	5
Parking Problem	1
Property Damage, Non Vandalism	2
Seizure	1
Sex Offender Registry	1
Sex Offense	1
Sexual Assault	1
Special Detail	2
Suspicious Person	10
Suspicious Person/Circumstance	26
Theft	7
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1
Threatening	3
Traffic Hazard	11
Traffic Violation	3
Training	1
Trespassing	4
Unlawful Mischief	3
Wanted Person	4
Welfare Check	10
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Total Incidents for This Agency:	362

This a reminder about the online program CityProtect that all citizens can access to see calls for service for police, fire, and rescue.