

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: February 2, 2022

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- FY22-23 Budget – Budget preparation continues with department head requests being vetted and refinements to be made at the Town Manager level of review. Next month will bring intensive work on the Council's part to review the Town Manager's Budget and discuss possible changes. A detailed schedule of department reviews during the different workshop nights is attached for your reference. The delivery of budget books to the Council will take place at a Special Meeting to take place on February 9.

Additionally, the budget preference survey went up on the website and Facebook last week. We made this opportunity available last year to get some early public engagement on the budget. The survey is a joint Town/School effort with Morgan students compiling the data collected.

- State Budget – The State will be starting its budget process at the same time the Town is. On February 9, the Governor will present his budget to the General Assembly. The Governor's Budget is an important indicator that impacts our budget. The Governor traditionally has set the "floor" for State grants-in-aid. Those grant calculations are important to our budget assumptions as Clinton's budget is highly sensitive to changes in State aid. Even maintaining level funding has an impact on our property tax rate. Clearly, there will be more to come on this item as the Governor releases his budget.
- Fire Department Vehicle Purchasing – I need to have a conversation with the Council on financing for Fire Department vehicle replacement. We started a process in the past 2 budgets to build an annual reserve that would help fund vehicle replacement. The first vehicle in the replacement schedule is a pumper which was competitively bid and is close to a decision point. Additionally, some on the Council will recall prior discussion about replacing the fire boat with a grant which was not granted twice. As we are looking at significant purchases that have long term impacts, I need Council engagement and direction on structuring the financing.

2. River COG:

River COG met on January 26, 2022. Highlights of that meeting include:

- Federal Infrastructure Funds – An overview of the roll out of federal infrastructure funds was provided by Mark Boughton, Governor Lamont's Senior Advisor on Infrastructure. Funds will come to the States as an increase in pre-existing formula grant programs. Changes to existing

state programs and the process for distribution will be forthcoming. Competitive grants are also created at the federal level by this legislation. The State is looking to the COGs to be a part of the process and emphasized projects of a regional nature will be prioritized. The State is also supposed to be providing support and assistance in securing grant funds. There will be more to discuss when initial guidance is provided from the federal government.

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – The COG has gotten its first approval along the process of accessing federal funds for economic development. Our region is the only region in the state that does not have a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The federal Economic Development Agency will provide grant funds to the COG to complete a CEDS. The first step in the process involved OPM designating the COG as a regional economic development district (EDD). This designation sets the CEDS process in motion. After the CEDS is completed, the regional EDD will become a State EDD. After state designation is completed, the district designation shifts to the federal level. Once accepted at the federal level, funding can then become available. Only the federal designation comes with funding.
- Bike/Pedestrian Plan – The COG will host a public information meeting on the draft plan. Final approval of the plan is anticipated in March. Attached is a copy of the flier for the public hearing which also has a link to the draft plan.
- Waste – A possible change in household hazardous waste collection will be discussed. Financially, it appeared to be more efficient to run a series of satellite collections instead of the fixed collection in Essex. The change in model requires a lengthy discussion given the existing investments in Essex. A high level review of MIRA was also given.

3. Miscellaneous:

- Beach Park Road Grant Project – Our partnership with Ducks Unlimited and DEEP to secure a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to replace a bridge on Beach Park Road over the Hammock River. Ducks Unlimited is finalizing the application for submission with DEEPs input. The Town has given its approval to the grant application. Attached for your reference is the letter of support from the Town. Similar letters have been sought from our State Representative and Senator.

Town Council Budget Schedule for FY 2022/2023

All of the meetings will take place in the Rose Room of the Town Hall

MEETING DATE	BUDGET REVIEW	MEETING TIME
2/9/2022	SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING	6:00 PM
	BUDGET PRESENTED	
2/17/2022	TOWN MANAGER	6:00 PM
2/17/2022	FINANCE	
2/17/2022	TOWN CLERK	
2/17/2022	ASSESSOR	
2/17/2022	TAX COLLECTOR	
2/17/2022	INLAND WETLANDS COMM	
2/17/2022	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	
2/17/2022	PLANNING & ZONING COMM	
2/17/2022	BUILDING	
2/17/2022	HUMAN SERVICES	
2/17/2022	SENIOR SERVICES	
2/17/2022	WSAM MAINTENANCE	
2/17/2022	PUBLIC WORKS	
2/17/2022	TECHNOLOGY	
2/17/2022	POLICE	
2/17/2022	COMMUNICATIONS	
2/17/2022	ANIMAL CONTROL	
2/17/2022	FIRE MARSHAL	
2/17/2022	FIRE DEPARTMENT	
2/17/2022	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
2/17/2022	ELECTIONS & MEETINGS	
2/17/2022	CIVIL PREPAREDNESS	
2/17/2022	LIBRARY	
2/22/2022	WATER POLLUTION	6:00 PM
2/22/2022	PARK & RECREATION	
2/22/2022	HARBOR COMMISSION	
2/22/2022	SHELLFISH COMMISSION	
2/22/2022	HEALTH	
2/22/2022	PROBATE COURT	
2/22/2022	WATER HYDRANTS	
2/22/2022	STREET LIGHTING	
2/22/2022	GENERAL GOV'T ADMIN	
2/22/2022	OTHER GENERAL GOV'T	
2/22/2022	DEBT	
2/22/2022	CAPITAL - TOWN	
2/22/2022	REVENUE	
2/24/2022	BOARD OF EDUCATION	6:00 PM
3/2/2022	SPECIAL MEETING TO FINALIZE BUDGET	6:00 PM
4/6/2022	BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL	
	MEETING TO FINALIZE THE BUDGET	6:00 PM

Lower Connecticut River Valley Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Steering Committee Meeting 4 and Public Information Meeting

Tuesday February 1, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

**This event will provide general information about the Draft Bicycle and
Pedestrian Master Plan and opportunities for review and comment**

Join on your computer or mobile app using MS Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in at number below:

1 (860) 838-4504

Phone Conference ID: 749 500 716#

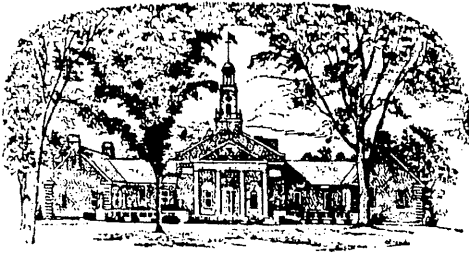
View the draft plan at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:579e7e86-6890-474e-af6a-af5373683b47>



**Lower Connecticut River Valley
Council of Governments**

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William Stanton Andrews Memorial Town Hall

TOWN OF CLINTON
54 East Main Street
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

Karl F. Kilduff
Town Manager

January 21, 2022

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
113 Fifteenth St. N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

**RE: Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund
Tide Gate and Coastal Resilience Restoration – Hammock River
Town of Clinton, Middlesex County, CT**

To Whom It May Concern:


The Town of Clinton supports the Ducks Unlimited application for Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund (ECRF) grant support to aid in natural hazard mitigation and to restore natural systems in the tidal marsh of the Hammock River as it connects to Long Island Sound. Clinton is a low-lying coastal town located within a coastal zone which exposes the community to hazards associated with coastal storms, high winds and flooding from storm surges resulting in Major Disaster Declaration Area designations in 2010-2013, 2015, 2018 and 2020-2021.

This project is intended to replace an existing bridge and tide gate system with an open span and self-regulating tide gates that will result in improving water flow restoring critical habitat and natural systems that help manage storm water and coastal flooding. The marsh upstream of the current bridge and tide gates is under threat as the marsh cannot adequately circulate water. This project will cure that problem and restore the marsh ecosystem. Additionally, the wider bridge span will aid in flood mitigation as the restored marsh land will afford added flood storage and surge protection for nearby coastal neighborhoods. The project will enhance the ability of Clinton to reduce risks to life and property from natural hazards through this cost-effective hazard mitigation project.

The Town of Clinton's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan specifically calls for the replacement of this bridge span above the Base Flood Elevation, and the plan generally calls for restoration and protection of coastal habitats and marsh lands to better protect the Town from impacts of coastal storms.

With this funding, coastal resilience in Clinton will be improved and habitat restoration efforts will be enhanced.

Sincerely,


Karl F. Kilduff
Town Manager