

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: October 18, 2023

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

1. Council Business:

- West Main Street Sidewalk Project – I have been coordinately with the DOT's consultants on the recently approved sidewalk project along West Main Street from the CVS (Johns Street) to North High Street. I am looking for formalized approval from the DOT of the grant award and a grant agreement for execution. Our first step in the project is the process to select an engineer to design the project. The DOT has a very specific process to be followed in selecting an engineer for these types of projects. Before advertising, we need some details from the State on one of their procurement requirements.

Again, as noted during our earlier discussions, the anticipated local funding will need to be appropriated in the upcoming budget. Since the Town has to fund the full amount of the project prior to seeking reimbursement, the budget will have to include \$1.4 million in the Capital Plan for the sidewalk project.

- Possible Peddling Ordinance Change – The legal landscape for restricting peddling is in a state of flux with lawsuits drawing a difference between public and private spaces. The general standard to be applied when developing a restriction is to fill a public need. Restriction on hours of peddling has been able to pass legal review as the Town is responding to a concern of door knocking at night leading to criminal activity. Limiting door knocking by specific holidays would have to meet a similar standard.

2. River COG

The River COG will meet again on October 25, 2023.

3. River Valley Transit

Highlights from the last Transit District Board Meeting include, the replacement of the original Clinton Trolley with a new trolley in the upcoming round to bus replacements; a public hearing is going to planned to expand service to the route that includes Clinton to add Sunday bus service; and the Transit District may be tasked with a study to determine if buses could be used to supplement Shoreline East (which is in response to budget cuts made to rail in the State budget).

4. CCM Legislative Committee

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Legislative Committee held its October meeting to act on policy ideas from the membership that will form the basis of CCM's legislative advocacy efforts in the upcoming session.

5. Miscellaneous:

- Fish Ladder Project – We are still working on the grant-funded project to install a fish ladder at the dam next to the Indian River Shops. The engineering work to design the ladder is basically done. The current challenge is defining property lines and the timing of real estate transfers. The small playground/park in the plaza was supposed to be conveyed back to the Town. As a part of this project, it makes sense for the dam to be conveyed to the Connecticut Water Company after the project is completed since the dam is important to their upstream well field for both water quality and water quantity. All of the parties are coordinating on potential property lines, necessary easements, etc... to facilitate the project and ultimately public access to the fish ladder.
- Library RFP – I am still working on developing a Request for Proposals or a Request for Qualification seeking architects that could assist in planning and design studies regarding the interior of the library. Defining the project scope is part of the challenge.
- Union Contract Negotiations – Negotiations remain on-going with the Police Union as the last union contract to be settled.
- Hiring – Human Resource issues continue to dominate a lot of my time in an effort to fill vacancies. It is likely to remain an on-going concern to find and evaluate candidates to fill our available vacancies.