

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: November 15, 2023

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

1. Council Business:

- Possible Peddling Ordinance Change – I have prepared a draft ordinance amendment which has been reviewed by the Police Chief and Town Attorney. With the change in the Town Council, the first read of the ordinance would be on the December 6 agenda. The Council would need to schedule a public hearing on the ordinance.
- Landfill Capping Update – The DEEP is still processing our permit application to cap the former landfill with imported soils. The two towns in the queue ahead of us averaged 14+ months for an approval. We are anticipating DEEP permitting in the second quarter of 2024. In terms of our agreement with the engineer that was selected to assist with the project, we would be awarding the second phase of the project which would gear up for capping. It would also entail Council approval of a contract to accept soils and to receive a “host town” fee for accepting the soil. The time to complete capping is estimated at 9-12 months (depending upon weather).
- STEAP Grant – I received the grant contracting materials for our recently awarded \$500,000 STEAP grant. A number of items need to be put together for the State to complete grant contracting. Ultimately, I will need a resolution from the Council. That item should appear on a December agenda.

2. River COG

The River COG does not have a regularly scheduled meeting in November. They will meet again in December.

One item of note from the COG, is the renewed preparation of the regional natural hazard mitigation plan. The current plan will expire in 2026. Work to prepare the next plan and pursuing a grant will take place sooner. The COG is asking that the FY24=25 budget include a possible local contribution to the project totaling \$4,750.

3. CCM Legislative Committee

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Legislative Committee will meet again toward the end of November.

4. Miscellaneous:

- Indian River Fishway Project – At present, the parties are working through the potential property ownership of the fishway. The dam in question is currently in the hands of Greylock Properties. It used to be the Town's prior to the sale of the Morgan School site. As a part of the sale, a portion of the property was approved by the Town Meeting to be conveyed back to the Town. This parcel includes the playground area – and the dam. It makes more sense for the Water Company to be in ownership of the dam rather than the Town. We are trying to determine the appropriate property line that would keep public access to the playground and dam area (for migratory fish viewing) and still move responsibility for the dam to the Water Company. We hope to have the property lines determined in December. As a reminder, this phase of the grant-funded project was for design of the project only. A future grant would need to be applied for to help pay for construction.