
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

TO: SELECTBOARD
FROM: PETE WEBSTER, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
DATE: AUGUST 5, 2009

- **Corridor Enhancement Project**

This project continues to go well, despite the extraordinary weather we've experienced the past two months. This week and next the sidewalk is being installed, and we can then move forward on the completion of the bandstand. GR Porter is standing by to finish the steps and ramp as soon as we have the elevation of the sidewalk established (within two weeks), and then the final painting will be completed. The Women's Club has a beautiful landscape plan all set to go, and I've met with them (Karen Ward, Sue Pitiger and Rita Lajoie) to go over the plans for dedication. We have a dedication scheduled for the afternoon of Sept. 12, to coincide with Olde Home Day. Both Jim Douglas and Peter Welch have been invited to participate, and I would encourage the entire Selectboard to also attend. Unfortunately, the 12th is also the date for a big Veterans celebration in Hanover on the green, and Old Glory Days in White River Jct. I continue to receive, and pass along to you, every comment, email or letter that pertains to the lane closure experiment, pro or con. Many have strong opinions, and some contain very good suggestions for improvements. Bob Chamberlin of RSG will be making their assessment next week and writing up their report and recommendations to the state. I think the final lane markings can be somewhat improved with several minor changes, but having said that, I believe the experiment to date has gone well, with many more positive than negative comments. We've had two early morning meetings of all the minds (7/10 & 7/24) with Kevin Marshia from AOT, Chris Barker, the resident engineer, Sue Clark from AOT, Andy, Bob Chamberlin, Lucy Gibson, Neil Fulton, Sharon Racusin and many others to assess the experiment. I've spent several afternoons out there during the rush hour period of 3:30 to 5:30 pm to observe.

Here's a summary of the rest of my activities since your last Board meeting:

7/9 - attended an evening seminar/question and answer session of Leadership Upper Valley, as a guest of Steve Usle.

7/11 - attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new expansion plans for Advanced Transit. Took my turn on the Lions Club Dunk Tank for the annual fair.

7/13 - drove to Burlington for a morning meeting of the CEAD group (Clean Energy Assessment District). Will be discussing the details of this meeting with our Representative, Margaret Cheney.

7/14 - Department Head meeting to discuss deferred compensation plan. Drove out (with Chief Robinson) to meet with Jeff Bogie on his property at his request to look at his sand and gravel operation and receive a complaint about the Town road up to his property (Goodell Rd).

7/15 - Rotary luncheon meeting.

7/16 - Walked Church Street with two concerned residents to look at the ongoing project and street paving, also discussed the speed limit issue. Observed the rush hour on 10A between 3:30 and 5:30 pm.

7/17 - again observed the traffic patterns between Ledyard Bridge and I-91, between 3:30 and 5:30 pm.

7/20 - met with the Norwich Energy Committee to review progress on the CREB and CEDF grant applications. The CREB application was submitted by overnight delivery and received by 10 am on the deadline date, August 4th.

7/21 - regular Department Head meeting to discuss various Town issues.

7/21 - met with Jill Harris from the Animal Welfare League to learn about their organization.. Sat in on the noon meeting of the Trustees of Public Funds. Attended an evening meeting at the Seiberts' home to learn about the Public Assets Institute and Vermont Transparency (www.vttransparency.org and www.publicassets.org). I'd encourage you all to visit these sites to learn more about the workings of our state government and state spending.

7/22 - I sat in on depositions (Bragg Hill case).

7/24 - more depositions (Bragg Hill case). Moderated an evening forum here at Tracy Hall on the Ct. River Atlas—"Where the Great River Rises". Over ninety residents attended, organized by Norman Miller.

7/27 - more Bragg Hill depositions.

7/28 - Department Head meeting to discuss the challenges of the upcoming budget season. Sat in on continuing Bragg Hill depositions. Had a meeting with a delinquent tax payer to discuss her payment situation. We are making very good progress on cleaning up some of these older delinquencies.

7/29 - evening meeting at the Norwich Inn with Joe Lavin, P.J. Morgan and Linda Cook to discuss Olde Home Day plans.

7/30 - half day DisasterLAN training in Hartford. So. Vt. Town Managers' monthly luncheon (Windsor).

Just a reminder that I will be away the week of August 10th-15th. Neil will be the acting TM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Webster