
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

TO: SELECTBOARD
FROM: PETE WEBSTER, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
DATE: MARCH 20, 2009

Corridor Enhancement Project

Chuck Wise from Two Rivers Regional Planning has given us some good guidance as we proceed with the details of this long-delayed project. It should be going out to bid in April or May for actual completion later this summer, and we will be reviewing the computer simulation from RSG next Wednesday. Hopefully we can go forward with a lane closure experiment, possibly at AOT's expense (est. to be between \$8,000 and \$10,000), an experiment that AOT insists upon prior to the actual changes in the lanes to accommodate a possible bike lane.

Somewhat related, I met with Rick White this past week, a state forester, along with Phil Dechert to review some 8 or 9 trees that might be impacted by the Safe Routes to School project, creating a sidewalk along Church St. from Carpenter up to the Church. This is still in the design phase, and might possibly be ready for construction after the paving project late this fall. That would be an optimistic best-case scenario, but a possibility.

Route 5 Being Re-classified a Class 1 Road

Margaret Cheney is having the language pulled from this year's T-Bill, giving us adequate time prior to next year's session of the legislature to fully study the issues.

Bandstand

I've met with Karen Ward from the Women's Club to discuss their continued involvement with the new construction, and their ability to help with the "finish work", the painting/staining of the completed structure. They have a fund of approximately \$800 for this and the 'ribbon cutting' ceremonies, whatever they might be. I am still hopeful of a completion date in time for the Marion Cross School graduation ceremonies which may be during the week of June 15th, although that's not definite at this time.

I will be putting a tarp over the roof of the bandstand to better protect it until a final disposition of the roof is settled upon. I've heard of a local resident who would like to take it for his own property, I've heard of a proposal to remove it to the landfill area for re-constitution as a pavilion on eight supporting beams (with no base) and there is still an active effort to eventually (not this year) re-locate it to Foley Park with a new base, coordinated by Norman Miller and Don McCabe, with whom I met yesterday afternoon.

Union Contract Negotiations

As in my last report, not much can be reported out of Executive Session. The last two meetings have both been cancelled by the union negotiator, George Lovell, one because of a timing conflict and this past week's session due to illness. We are scheduled to meet this afternoon (Friday), and I will have a brief update in next week's Executive Session.

Other Issues

I am meeting next month with Steve Voigt of King Arthur Flour, Peter Glenshaw representing the College and Phil Dechert, to discuss possible uses of the College-owned and KAF-owned contiguous properties. I think any dialogue between the Town and these two entities is helpful, so everyone knows where everyone else might be coming from.

Bob Franzoni from CATV held his first of what he hopes will be many bi-weekly interviews on camera in the living room of the Norwich Inn. He interviewed a number of us, representing the Town, the school district, the fire department, the Women's Club and the Historical Society. I think it went well, and he hopes to hold these every two weeks or so.

Brion McMullon and I spent a couple hours down at GUVSWMD with Fred Moody, at my request. I wanted to learn more about the history of this solid waste district and the 175 acres we now own in Hartland, including the plans for the 40 acre landfill and the \$3 million bridge that had to be constructed across I-91 to access the site. When I was First Selectman in Essex, Ct I was appointed by then Governor Rowland to serve on the Board of Directors of the Ct. Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA), a quasi-public trash-to-energy corporation that took MSW from about half of the towns/cities in Connecticut. I sat on that board for about six years. We had a very low tipping rate as we burned the trash, selling the steam to CL&P to be converted into electricity. I think this landfill will be a benefit to the communities involved, and we are looking into the possibility of a private company (Casella Waste is one) to manage it over the next 30 years. In all probability this will be in operation, hopefully, by fall of 2010, and may be a warned article on next year's Town Meeting.

I met with residents Bill Flynn and Jeff Goodrich for lunch at the suggestion of Ed Childs, just to meet for the first time and get good solid feedback from former Planning Commission members.

I attended the monthly meeting of the Norwich Business Council at the Norwich Inn last week. We talked about linking their new website to the Town's website. I also explored the possibility of the NBC being involved with sponsoring an eventual annual Norwich Family Day on the grounds of the Montshire, an idea which seems to be gaining traction.

Yesterday I attended an energy symposium at Dartmouth sponsored by our energy consultant, Competitive Energy Services of Portland, Maine. This is the company that helps us make the right decisions, at the right time, for propane and fuel oil purchases. They also advise such large energy consumers as Dartmouth College, Bates, Bowdoin and U. of Maine, and many other municipalities in both New Hampshire and Vermont.

My third monthly Thursday evening session at the Norwich Inn will be next week, and I think they are being well received. I'd encourage any of you who have that 5-7 pm time slot open to stop in and join me. As always, the cheese and crackers are on me, beverage of choice is all yours.

Pete