



Peter B. Webster
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter B. Webster, Town Manager

DATE: May 24, 2010

SUBJECT: Information for the Selectboard

King Arthur Flour Proposal

This agenda item is a courtesy call from KAF to keep your Board fully informed of their need to expand the Norwich operation, and their increased wastewater disposal needs.

I attended the Hartford Selectboard meeting on May 18th, as I understood that Steve Voigt, CEO of King Arthur Flour, would be requesting a sewer allocation and a connection to the Town of Hartford's wastewater treatment plant. Their primary choice is to run a private sewer line directly across Dresden property (about .9 miles) to a pump station at the end of Olcott Drive. This would be the quickest and simplest way for KAF to be able to meet the huge increase in business for their Norwich operation, and really does not involve the Town of Norwich. The Hartford Selectboard voted 5-0 to approve the 10,000 GPD allocation that KAF was requesting. There was some discussion about the regional benefits if this line was run down the State's Rt. 5 right of way. KAF's representatives want to keep your Board informed as they go through this process. If there happens to be support for a line running down Rt. 5 on State right-of-way, that could be a secondary option, but they would need to move on these plans immediately. I will be happy to share my thoughts with you on what this latter option might mean for our Town and the region.

Conservation Commission Request for Funding

You will hear a presentation from Alison May about an opportunity to acquire 4 acres of land on the Ompompanoosuc River, a parcel that might be acquired through private fundraising and then donated to the Town for recreational purposes—if the Selectboard agreed to receive the donation. This property is currently under foreclosure, going to auction June 23rd. I believe Alison would need a \$10,000 bank check to bid on this property at auction, on behalf of her fundraising group. The concept has been enthusiastically endorsed by both the Recreation Council and the Conservation Commission, and I have toured the property with both Alison and Andy Hodgdon to see what might be needed to revert this parcel to its natural state and become a Town asset. My assessment of this proposal is that this could become one of the Town's best waterfront assets, despite the State ramp accessed from Old Bridge Road, just downstream from this location. It could serve as a great picnic area, small boat put-in, possibly even another swimming hole. Roberta informed me that a number of significant checks have already been mailed in.

Code of Ethics Policy

You have in your packets the revised policy that has been reviewed by Roberta, Nancy and me. I concur with this revision and join Roberta in recommending its inclusion in the Personnel Manual.

Junkyard Ordinance

This is a continuing discussion requested by a resident. You have previously been provided information on model ordinances, and need to reach a decision on whether you want to take up this issue at this time.

Town Email List Policies

Selectboard member Racusin has again requested you review this policy. I think the policy is fine as it has been written and revised once before.

Programmatic Budget Presentations

This is a request from the NFC. I believe the past two budgets (both very difficult ones in extraordinary times, both resulting in lower municipal tax rates than the FY 2009 budget) have gone well, but I am always open to suggestions for improvements going forward.

Possible Purchase of Parsonage

I received the commercial appraisal on May 11th and have met with the church subcommittee charged with this sale, plus a couple of Selectboard members. We have had very positive discussions, sharing the commercial appraisal we

funded with the church, and comparing the two independent appraisals. The church will consider their position and come back to us with their thoughts on a sale price. If we are able to reach a purchase and sale agreement, this would go before the residents no earlier than a September meeting.

Revising the NORCAP Report

I am pulling together a small group to help update the four year old NORCAP report, a necessary function before a vote on the parsonage occurs. These will be warned meetings so the public can attend, but my goal is to have a revised and updated report to you before the end of July, possibly earlier.

Leadership Upper Valley—Class of 2010

I would like to thank the Board for supporting me with a payment of half the \$850 tuition for this nine month course. I highly recommend this for others who might be very involved with the Upper Valley in any kind of leadership position. The nine full day sessions covered the following areas: “Arts in the Upper Valley”, “Health and Human Services”, “Communications”, “Education”, “Economic Development”, “Government and Politics”, “Transportation”, and then a final session that tied all these issues together. The link can be found at: <http://www.vitalcommunities.org/leadershipuv/index.htm>. I believe the tuition is increasing to \$975 for this coming year, and applications are needed by May 31st. If anyone reading this report is interested, I would gladly answer questions you might have, or refer you to Doug Robinson or Cheryl Lindberg, both of whom were also in the course with me.

Safe Routes To School Project

We now have the revised Conceptual Plans from the engineering firm, and they seem to be ok with Aimee Pope at VTrans. I’ve talked with her about the increased costs since this grant was awarded back in May of 2008, about moving this forward so we can get it out to bid by July and construction finished by this fall. I will be holding public hearings on the designs and on the landscaping changes, as required, but the abutters have all been kept informed with some of the changes. We take over Church Street from the State July 1, and these plans are all now predicated on this being a Town Class I road.

Miscellaneous

- This past week I took some personal time off to participate in the 200th meeting of the Dartmouth Alumni Council as my Class Representative. I also met with David Spalding, a Norwich resident who is the newly named Chief of Staff for Pres. Kim. We discussed ‘town and gown’ issues—some of the college-owned properties that reside in Norwich, just keeping the lines of communication open between Norwich and Dartmouth College.

- Kendall Station Road—I've met with Andy and a resident about the final landscaping issues regarding the new RR crossing, and I believe this issue has finally been put to rest.
- Delinquent Tax Update—payment plans continue to be filed with the Finance Office, signed by both the individual taxpayer and the Town Manager, so the new policy seems to be working well.

That's about it for this session—I will be taking some time off in the coming weeks for my daughter's surgery and rehabilitation, but will be checking in frequently with Nancy and can always be reached by cell phone.