



Peter B. Webster
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter B. Webster, Town Manager

DATE: July 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Information for the Selectboard

Sunday Night Rainfall and Washouts

We experienced some pretty major washouts Sunday night/Monday morning, with some areas of town receiving up to 2 ¼ inches of rain. Andy and his road crew have been busy all week re-ditching, bringing in stone, replacing one culvert, and re-grading. Hardest hit roads were Dutton Hill, Upper Loveland, among others.

Setting Tax Rate

You have in your packets all the information needed to set the FY11 tax rate. Neil does a wonderful job each year of collating all the pieces to this complicated puzzle, and was once again generous with his time in meeting with me and Uwe to go through the numerous steps that lead to a tax rate. Unfortunately, despite great budgeting from both the education and municipal sides, with net reductions in both budgets, we will be experiencing a significant total homestead (and non-residential) tax increase, in the 4 ½-5 ½% range.

Montshire Road Sidewalk

I mentioned this project in my last report, but it was not on the agenda as a discussion item, much less action item. I am again bringing this up as we have a new budget with which to work, and great cooperation from both the museum

and (I anticipate) from the school district. In this spirit of working together, and in an effort to make this stretch of road safer for all the MCS children that walk to the museum on their field trips, we can get this project done immediately with a withdrawal from the sidewalk fund and a transfer from the Winter Maintenance Purchased Services line. The museum will be contributing over a third of this cost, and I'm hopeful of funding also from the school, which will make this feasible this summer.

Junk and Junk Vehicles Ordinance

You have in your packets some proposed language, taken mainly from the Town of Middlebury, for another ordinance. I have looked at a number of others, including language from the VLCT, but I think this one makes the most sense, with some minor changes that I've taken the liberty of making. I look forward to your input and a discussion.

Summer Concert Series

April Andrews, who coordinates the four concerts held on the Green each summer, was delighted with this year's first effort by the Fogey Mountain Boys. We had a good crowd over 300, good weather, and the bandstand was apparently well-received.

An update on renovations to the Green—the school has delayed any improvements, grading, new topsoil, for this year. We had been led to believe there would be some major upgrades of the Green, but budgets being as tight as they are the school has put this off.

Zero-Sort Recycling

Despite some confusion from implementing a new program last Saturday (6/26) at our recycling center, we are getting a positive response from the public. There will always be a learning curve on something like this, and I expect the delays and lines at the compactor to be shorter with each weekend. I've called a number of other municipalities who have been utilizing Zero-Sort for up to six months now, and it is uniformly positive feedback. Andy and I will organize a field trip to Casella's Zero-Sort center up in the Burlington area sometime in July for anyone wishing to see firsthand the process.