



Peter B. Webster
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter B. Webster, Town Manager

DATE: June 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Information for the Selectboard

Health Insurance

This past Wednesday, we had a two hour educational forum with our League Health Trust representative and a representative from VLCT's new broker/partner, Hickok and Boardman. They explained in great detail the current plans we have and how they each compare with the MVP plan. Tanya Chambers will present a brief outline of that for you Wednesday. With the exception of two employees, everyone was present, including a number of spouses, and I think all questions and concerns were thoroughly and adequately addressed. My recommendation to you will be that we switch to the MVP plan come August 1, fully funding the higher deductible through the HRA (Health Reimbursement Arrangement). The coverage is comparable, and the savings significant, both for employees and employer. If implemented, this should save us about 25% over our current health insurance costs. Regardless of your decision, our current plans will be dramatically changed come January 1, especially the HP 10/20 C Plan that covers six of our nineteen insured employees. I will have more specifics for you on Wednesday, along with Tanya's presentation, but clearly this is an option we need to seriously consider.

Transfer/Recycling Station

The new windshield stickers have just arrived (Thursday, 6/16), and are now being sold by both our Town Clerk and at the Transfer Station. I will continue to get the word out on this change in policy through various media, and expect a smooth implementation over the coming weeks and months.

Municipal Banking Proposals

We received five proposals from our RFP last week. Roberta and I have gone over them creating a matrix for comparison purposes. We will be recommending two for your further consideration Wednesday, one of which clearly seems to be most favorable to our bottom line. There are obviously other factors to be considered when considering the Town's banking relationship, but the interest paid on average daily balances is one of the major considerations, along with other fees that are charged the Town. Roberta and I will have a strong recommendation for you Wednesday.

Miscellaneous

Sarah Reeves has coordinated a number of planting parties along Blood Brook in Huntley Meadow the past two weeks. She has raised funding from the Norwich Women's Club and the Conservation Commission, resulting in some significant new plantings (some large Hemlocks, high and low bush blueberries, etc) along the brook to help with stabilization.

Somewhat along the same lines, Jake Blum has initiated an effort to clear out the invasive species that have taken over the area in front of the apple orchard just east of Hybels' house. The Milton Frye Preservation Committee, Conservation Committee, DPW, Andy and myself have all been involved in the planning and decision making on just what should be removed to open up that vista, and it will be a huge improvement to our gateway area.

Betsy Maislin, who as you know has been instrumental in having the Town named an official "AT Community", is planning an event to highlight that special designation. Sat. Sept. 24 is National Appalachian Trail Family Day, and she is organizing a hike for families that would end up on the Green, possibly starting up at Cossingham Road where the AT comes through. This is still in the conceptual phase, but she hopes to attract many families to this event, including some state officials for the formal announcement on the Green, potluck food, etc. We will have two signs that designate us as an AT Community, one possibly located down near Ledyard Bridge and Foley Park, and one possibly located near the intersection of Elm and Main Street.

The new floor covering for the gym has just arrived, and it is a much heavier material than the current covering. Unfortunately, due to that increased weight, we need to also purchase a rolling rack that will cost an additional \$1,755. Ben was under the impression that it was included, but that was not the case. I would like to request that withdrawal from Tracy Hall Designated Fund at your next meeting.

I have a recommendation for the replacement carpeting for downstairs, as we obtained two quotes with four different types of commercial carpeting. This is an agenda item for your consideration/action.