



Town of Glastonbury

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Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

ITEM #7
11-23-2021 Meeting

November 19, 2021

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up to date on various topics.

1. AARP Livable Communities Grant

AARP Connecticut recently selected six recipients for this grant program. Glastonbury was one of the recipients for a \$5,000 grant award to be allocated to accessible benches with arbors at the Town's senior housing development.

2. Town Organization Successes and Accomplishments

I thought you would be interested in the attached summary of recent individual and organizational successes and accomplishments.

3. SHPO – Wright-Gaines House

The Review Board of the State Historic Preservation Office will meet on the morning of Friday, December 3rd to discuss the Wright-Gaines House as a contributing structure to the National Historic District. Basically, to determine if the structure continues to contribute to the District. I understand this is a public meeting with opportunity to comment. I have advised the Historic Society and Chair of the Glastonbury Historic District accordingly.

4. DEEP – Timber Harvest

The attached page updates previous information concerning the timber harvest planned by DEEP for state forest lands off Thompson Street.

5. Gideon Welles House

Per previous discussion, the leases with Emmy Lou's Unlimited and EB Taylor Photography (possible successor) will be extended through October 2022 at the current monthly rates. As you know, both business tenants were offered reduced rates during COVID months.

6. Solid Waste Disposal

The Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) is forecasting significant increases to tip fees over the five years through 2027. This is the end of current long-term agreements between communities and MIRA for disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW). At the January 11th meeting, I will present options for coming years effective July 1, 2022. In the meantime, I wanted to confirm this matter was under review.

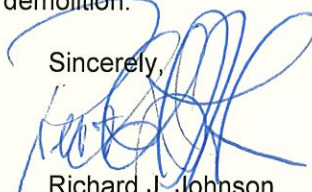
7. Recreation Activities Fund

The Recreation Activities Fund (RAF) was established in 2008 to provide flexibility for cost neutral recreation activities. Most recreation activities sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department are coordinated through the RAF with revenues offsetting expenses. A budget is established each year and for the current year, the budget totals \$1.545M. This is based on best estimate of activity levels in a respective year. This year estimated revenues and expenditures are expected to exceed budget. At its meeting of Wednesday, November 17th, the Board of Finance adjusted the budget upwards by \$150,000 for revenues and expenditures as a non-budgeted appropriation. This should provide the flexibility intended by the RAF. For the coming year budget, we discussed a protocol so that such mid-year adjustments would not be required and the Fund would operate as originally intended.

8. Main Street Properties

By action at the September 28th Council meeting, the Council voted to submit a formal objection to the Demolition Permit for Main Street buildings including the following addresses: 2277-2289, 2341-2345 and 2389. This objection was per the Demolition Delay Ordinance. A new application for demolition of these structures was filed on Friday, November 12th and the legal notice published on Thursday, November 18th. I will appreciate Council consensus to re-file formal objection to the proposed demolition.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

RJJ/sal
Attachments

MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff
From: Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager
Date: November 6, 2021
Re: **Successes and Accomplishments**

Over recent months, there have been a number of individual, department and organizational successes as follows:

Sustainable CT – Glastonbury was one of five communities awarded the Silver (highest) Designation (three-year designation) through the first Sustainable CT process – 2018-2021. This required significant efforts throughout the organization and a proud accomplishment. Glastonbury is among twelve newly recognized communities across the state to receive the Silver Designation for the 2021-2024 process. Another great job.

Creative Experiences – Jason Stankowski and Jessica Palazzo of Youth & Family Services were recently awarded the CT Youth Service Association Outstanding Program of the Year Award for 2021. A well-deserved recognition.

Grant Award – A \$150,000 grant was awarded to the Fire Service to install exhaust mitigation systems at each of the Town's four Fire Companies. These funds were awarded through the highly competitive Fire Act Grant through FEMA.

Paycom – Human Resources and Finance staff are working to implement an automated Human Resource Information System to streamline administrative functions into a single database system. This significant project will bring many continuing efficiencies for HR/Finance, operating departments and staff.

Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator – Mirela Mujcinovic was recently certified as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist and invited to attend a conference in Austria this month as a presenter on the benefits of integrated care between primary care, mental health and substance use.

Budget Document – Glastonbury was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the current year budget document. This is the highest form of recognition for local budgeting.

Revenue Collection – Jennifer Delaney will receive her Certified Connecticut Municipal Collector designation later this month.

Bond Rating – Standard & Poor's and Moody's recently reaffirmed Glastonbury's AAA and Aaa bond ratings as part of a debt refinancing reducing future debt service cost by some \$650,000.

Purchasing – Mary Visone was named one of two 2021 Public Purchasing Association of Connecticut – Procurement Professional Award winners.

Welles Turner Memorial Library – Construction of the new wing to the WTML is nearing completion along with a variety of interior improvements and reconfigurations. The project is on schedule for substantial completion early next year.

Age-Friendly Community – Glastonbury is designated an Age-Friendly Community through national AARP. A formal Age-Friendly Action Plan focusing on outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, and housing was recently submitted for approval. This Plan is very well done and will help guide next steps to achieve these overall goals.

GIS – Through the efforts of GIS Coordinator Jenna Gosselin, the Town's GIS website is updated to take advantage of the latest software and database structures. Jenna continues to make improvements and add features to the Town's highly successful GIS system.

Grant Awards – Recent grant awards for Main Street reconstruction and new sidewalks within the Gateway area total some \$3M to generally fund 100% of project costs.

Police – Received grant award and fully implemented body worn camera systems in accordance with new state legislation. This enhances officer safety and improves transparency within the community. Also established highly effective Auto Theft Task Force to address increases in stolen vehicles and related crimes and introduced online reporting of crime data.

Congratulations to all for the successes noted above and continuing throughout the Town organization.

RJJ/sal



Memo

RECEIVED
2021 NOV 14 AM 11:00
TOWN MANAGER

To: Residents of Thompson Street, Glastonbury & neighbors of Meshomasic State Forest
From: State Lands Forester – Nathan Piché
Date: 11/14/2021
Re: Timber Harvest # E-1081 – Meshomasic State Forest – Thompson Street, Glastonbury

Thank you for the interest in the planned timber harvest within Meshomasic State Forest off Thompson Street in the Town of Glastonbury. The pre-harvest site walk, held on Friday June 4th, was a good opportunity for land managers to meet residents and come to a better understanding of the concerns there are associated with forest management activities. Topics discussed during this pre-harvest meeting covered forest certification, carbon sequestration and storage, harvest timeframe, working hours, down woody debris, wildlife considerations, early successional habitat, timber harvest revenue, invasive species, forest health, harvest layout and markings, boundary markings, trails, public access, and management objectives/priorities. To minimize fire risk and aesthetic concerns a decision was made to cut down treetops/woody debris down to four feet or less within the harvest site and this requirement is amenable to both land managers and timber harvest contractors. Also, to reduce noise disturbance of the harvest operation a working timeframe of Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM with no work on weekends was discussed. This requirement was considered and amended to Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 5 PM, no work on weekends, as these are standard business hours and provides operators an adequate amount of time to warm up equipment in the morning and wrap up operations in the afternoon while still limiting noise disturbance during early morning hours, late evening hours and on weekends.

To provide an update on the status of the project, the designated timber for sale within the project area has been sold to a local sawmill. Work on the site is restricted to November 1st to March 31st and the project is expected to take place as planned this winter.

If there are any additional questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at the address below.

Nathan.piche@ct.gov