

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council  
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager  
DATE: July 14, 2020  
SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report



The following information includes follow up from general items that were discussed at previous Council meetings as well as updates of a general nature from the departments. The items are organized by department and are intended to provide information on activities currently being undertaken by the Town's departments and those matters that are upcoming. Not all departments will be represented in each Report.

### Finance

- Preliminary (unaudited) information shows that the Town collected slightly more than 100% of its budgeted revenue for Fiscal Year 2020 (about \$6,000 more). This will be good news as the Town moves forward with the plan for Fiscal Year 2021

### Land Use

- The Lower Connecticut River COG has begun work on a regional Plan of Conservation and Development. The project was introduced at two "kick off" type meetings in late June and early July. Residents and others interested in the information can find materials and recordings of the kick off meeting at the River COG's website here: <https://rivercog.org/projects/rpocd/get-involved/study-materials/>

### Library

- The Library opened for walk in business on reduced hours beginning Monday, July 6. The usual types of restrictions are in place including masks and distancing. Fewer computers, tables and chairs are available to maintain distancing and patrons are encouraged to collect their materials and take them with them. As with the Town Hall, the vast majority of patrons have been understanding of the requirements and are thankful that the Library is open for service. Programming continues to be held online.

### Parks and Recreation

- Work continues on the aeration project for Lake Pocotopaug. The west half of the system has been online for about three weeks and early indications are favorable. The report prepared by Northeast Aquatic Research is attached to this Report and indicates that early measures are positive despite a loss of some water clarity. The east half is being finalized now and is intended to be started by the end of this week or early next week.

- The construction of watershed improvement projects also continues with major work ongoing at Sears Park. Despite some setbacks in the work related to conflicts discovered with on-site private utilities, the grading and parking lot portion of the project are progressing after some modifications. Staff anticipates some delays or temporary shutdowns of the Boat launch access and parking lot over the course of the next few weeks. All traffic is being directed to speak with the gate attendant upon entering the park so the attendant may provide guidance on entering the boat launch area. In addition to a few short closures of the boat launch over the course of next few weeks (one or two hours each time), a two-day closure of the launch for paving is expected around Tuesday, July 28 and Wednesday, July 29. The boat launch will reopen to the public on Thursday, July 30. Boaters are asked to keep this in mind as they plan their launch needs.
  
- Staff and members of the Conservation Lake Commission continue to work with the owners of the dam on Lake Pocotopaug (Bevin) to regulate the lake water level. For some time recently, the level was lower than desired and there was some talk that the lake level was being lowered to accommodate the culvert and bridge replacement project being undertaken by the State on Route 66. Currently, the dam is closed and the lake level is holding steady or rising. There is no plan to lower the level to accommodate the culvert/bridge work, which has been confirmed with the State and the contractor.

### **Police**

- The bridge and culvert replacement project on Rt 66 are progressing on a slightly delayed timeline and periodic lane closures will occur until about Thursday, July 23. On that date, it is anticipated that the two-week full shutdown will begin. During the shutdown period, the highway will be completely closed at all times. No traffic will be able to pass through the area. Also, during that time, the contractor expects to be working nearly 24-hours per day with two long shifts including overnight work that will cause some noise. General traffic will be routed through the Village Center using Main Street and Rt 196/Lakeview/Summit to avoid the closed area. Large truck traffic that is not making local deliveries will be routed on Rt 196 to avoid the Main Street/Rt 66 intersection. Information from the State regarding the closure and the detours is included in this Report.

### **Public Works**

- Public Works continues to work on COVID-19 protections and preparations for other Town departments. After completing the preparations for the Town Hall and the Library, the Department staff is preparing plexiglass sneeze barriers and other items for the Town's polling place in advance of the August primary and November general election. In addition, also in preparation for the upcoming elections, the staff is installing the State-provided secure receptacle for absentee ballots outside the main entrance to the Town Hall.
- A drainage system has been installed within the Town's Right of Way near the intersection of Crestwood Rd and Brewer road. This is expected to eliminate a long-term icing condition as well as address complaints from residents regarding poor drainage along the road.
- The drainage cross culvert on Collie Brook Road has been replaced and the roadside swale leading up to it has been stabilized. This pipe was compromised during a spring rainstorm which plugged the 12" pipe with gravel and washed out the road. The pipe has been upsized to 15" and the inlet and outlet sides of the pipe have been armored to eliminate erosion.
- The Town's old roadside mower has been sold on the Gov Deals auction site. This piece of equipment is a 1994 Ford 6640 tractor with approximately 5,200 hours on it. It is equipped with a Tiger boom flail mower. Prior to the sale, it needed major repairs to continue to operate and has outlived its service life and is surplus to our needs. The winning bid amount was \$5000. The Town currently has a 2013 New Holland roadside mower that is in service and in excellent condition.
- Crews have begun work this week on Clark Hill Rd from Lake Drive to Tiffany Court repairing areas of the road where it has settled near sanitary manholes as well as other settlements and potholes in that vicinity.
- Public Works Crews have completed backfilling the site remediation project at 13 Watrous street. The site has been stabilized and appropriate erosion controls put into place.

- Temporary way finding signs to assist people with locating the new Town Hall have been placed at the facility entrance on RT 66 and at the beginning of Edgewater Circle to further the Town's efforts to help visitors find our new location.

### **Senior Center**

- The Senior Center continues its programs via Zoom. Additionally, the shopping and delivery program continues to serve those with that need. Importantly, phone calls are being made by staff to local seniors to continue to connect with these residents.
- The Senior Center staff are preparing for a delayed opening. It remains difficult to determine the appropriate timing of this opening as the Governor's Executive Orders and health community advice really does not allow us to open safely until the Order is lifted. Staff has returned to work at the facility. This will allow plans to be put in place for opening and to set up the Center to accommodate the social distancing rules. As of now, the Governor has delayed the State's phase three re-opening which will delay the Centers' opening as well.

### **Town Manager/Other**

- The contractors continue to work on items on the Town Hall "punch list" including some malfunctioning locks, some newly developed HVAC issues and, notably, the completion of the Audio/Visual systems. It has been somewhat difficult to get commitments from contractors on the timing and the completion of work but significant funds are being held in retainage while this work remains outstanding. Unfortunately, some items that are not completed remain on the list for the final Certificate of Occupancy although the remaining items on the CO list are minor.
- Work is expected to begin any day on the large solar energy production facility on Skinner Street. The Council will recall that this is the project the energy from which will be directed to the Town to offset electrical costs at the Town's larger users including school buildings and the wastewater plant as well as other locations. Construction is getting underway sooner than anticipated and it is possible the Town will benefit from the energy savings in Fiscal Year 2021 (the current year). Additionally, staff will have good information to assist with planning for the 2022 budget.
- Staff, including the Finance Director, Human Resources Coordinator and the Town Manager, are in the final stages of hiring a new Assessor for the Town. A conditional

offer has been made and, pending successful completion of the final steps, it is expected that a new Assessor will be announced in a few weeks.

- Staff and the Housing Authority have completed and submitted two Grant applications.
  - The Housing Authority has submitted its Small Cities Community Development Block grant application in the amount of approximately \$1.3 million to fund capital improvements at the Authorities properties.
  - Staff has submitted the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant to CT DEEP to assist in the purchase of the Christopher Pond property in the estimated amount of \$100,000. The grant is expected to cover about two thirds of the market price of the property for the purchase, which is included in the Town's 2021 budget. Once the results of the grant application are known, the normal land purchase actions and approvals under Town Charter would be followed in the fall, including a Town Meeting, to authorize the purchase.
  
- Related to the above-referenced grant application, the appraisals of the Christopher property are nearly complete and ready for transmission to the property owners and the State as part of the grant packet.

DC

Attachments

cc: Management Staff



# Northeast Aquatic Research, LLC

www.northeastaquaticresearch.net

74 Higgins Highway

Mansfield Center, CT 06250

June 26, 2020



TO: Residents of East Hampton, CT  
 ATTN: Town of East Hampton Conservation Lake Commission  
 FROM: Hillary Kenyon Garovoy, Certified Lake Manager  
 George Knoecklein, Ph.D. Principal Limnologist

## RE: Results from June 19 & 22, 2020 Aeration System Water Quality Monitoring Visits

Please see the water clarity and oxygen results from the June 19 and 22, 2020 monitoring visits. These visits were scheduled to document water quality conditions before, during, and after the destratification aeration system was turned on. The following table shows the temperature, dissolved oxygen, and clarity readings from the deep hole monitoring station at Oakwood bay. As you can see, the aeration system has significantly reduced the volume of anoxic water. Anoxic water (<1mg/L dissolved oxygen) was present before aeration up to 5.5 meters. After three hours of aeration system operation, the anoxic boundary was pushed downwards to deeper water (7m). By the following Monday, the anoxic volume of water had been further reduced, but the lake remained anoxic from 8-10m at the lake bottom.

### Oakwood Station (41.59758, -72.50849)

Water depth: 10.3 meters (33.8 feet)

Oakwood Station		Temperature, C			Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)		
		6/19/2020		6/22/2020	6/19/2020		6/22/2020
Level	Depth (m)	Before Aeration	3hrs after	3 days after	Before Aeration	3hrs After	3 days after
surface	0	25.7	25.2	28.5	9.4	9.7	8.8
	top	1	25.4	25.2	26.5	9.4	9.7
middle	2	25.1	24.8	25.9	9.4	10.0	8.6
	3	24.1	24	25.6	9.6	9.6	8.5
	4	22.9	23	25	8.8	9.5	7.8
	5	20.2	21.2	24.3	3.3	6.8	7.4
	5.5	16.4	20.7	-	0.4	4.4	-
	6	15.7	16.2	23.5	0.3	1.6	6.6
bottom	7	14	13.7	21.9	0.3	0.4	5.1
	8	12.8	12.6	18.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
	9	12.2	12.1	15.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
	10	11.8	11.7	12.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
		Before Aeration	3hrs after	3 days after			
Water clarity (meters)		3.20	2.85	2.45			

The volume of anoxic water has been significantly reduced, but the bottom of the lake has not yet fully mixed and remains anoxic.

The immediate worsening of water clarity when the aeration system was turned on is due to upwards mixing of bottom water, which contains tiny sediment particles, including colloidal iron-sulfide and manganese, as well as hydrogen sulfide gas. The sulfide gas is the reason for the “rotten egg” smell that residents may have noticed around the aerators. The smell should subside over time as the aerators reduce the volume of anoxic water. Clarity was slightly worse by Monday afternoon, but the clarity reduction at Oakwood bay, again, did not seem to be related to phytoplankton on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If the aeration system continues to mix the water column and reduce or eliminate anoxic

bottom-waters, the water column will respond with a change in phytoplankton algae and nutrient distribution. The next monitoring date is scheduled for the first week in July.

In addition to monitoring at the regular Oakwood bay station, an additional 18 water column profiles of temperature and dissolved oxygen were measured at 1m intervals on June 19<sup>th</sup>, next to and at varied distances from the aerators, across ten monitoring locations in Oakwood bay. These profiles were taken to document water column conditions before, during, and 3hrs-after the turning on of the destratification aeration system. The full results will be available in the year-end water quality report.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, an additional 10 temperature and oxygen profiles were measured, including both the Markham and Oakwood bays, and the same locations as measured on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Map 1 June 19th Monitoring Locations



Map 2 June 22nd Monitoring Locations



One of the key findings of the many temperature and dissolved oxygen profile measurements is that the area of anoxic water seems to be shrinking, in addition to the reduction in the height of the anoxic boundary. These are positive results. For instance, the northernmost monitoring locations in Oakwood bay, which are both roughly 21ft deep, had a meter and a half of anoxic bottom water on the 19<sup>th</sup> and no anoxic water on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope that the aeration system will continue to effectively shrink the area of bottom sediment that is capable of releasing iron-bound phosphorus (nutrients) into the water column.

Overall, the destratification aeration system appears to have reduced the area and volume of anoxic water in Oakwood bay, but anoxia is still present in the deepest waters. Markham bay remains at similar anoxic conditions but also decreased in water clarity from 3.25m on June 19<sup>th</sup> to 2.7m on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We expect that Markham bay was somewhat impacted by upwelling of nutrient and mineral-rich waters from Oakwood bay. Nutrients in surface waters mix throughout, whereas oxygen conditions tend to be more locally impacted in the area of active aeration.

Nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient test results are not yet available, but will be reported shortly. We expect that there was a mixing of nutrients from bottom waters to surface waters once the aeration system was turned on, though the impacts of this mixing are not yet conclusive. Residents should continue to watch for signs of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) presence in the water column. Phytoplankton results from both monitoring days are included below.

	Oakwood	Oakwood	Markham
<b>Cyanobacteria Genus</b>	<b>19-Jun</b>	<b>22-Jun</b>	<b>22-Jun</b>
Dolichosperum	598	583	2,172
Chrysosporum	598	598	408
Planktolyngbya	0	0	787
Chroococcus	175	160	0
<b>Total Cyanobacteria cells/mL</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>3,367</b>

Cyanobacteria at Oakwood station from June 19<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup> was largely unchanged. Markham station currently has more than double the amount of cyanobacteria than Oakwood station. However, cyanobacteria at both open-water stations was low overall. July monitoring will ultimately determine if cyanobacteria blooms will be prevented by the destratification aeration system. Non-cyanobacteria phytoplankton are included below in cells/mL.

	Oakwood	Oakwood	Markham
<b>Non-Cyanobacteria Phytoplankton</b>	<b>19-Jun</b>	<b>22-Jun</b>	<b>22-Jun</b>
GREENS	379	44	233
DIATOMS	3,411	2,128	4,344
CHRYSOPHYTES	248	102	233
DINOFLAGELLATES	0	44	29

As more results become available, we will continue to inform the Town of East Hampton officials and residents.

Thank you.





**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NEWS RELEASE  
2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE P.O. BOX 317546  
NEWINGTON CONNECTICUT, 06131-7546**

07/08/2020

## Scheduled Two-Week Closure and Detour of Route 66 (East High Street) in East Hampton

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is announcing the scheduled closure and detour of Route 66 (East High Street) for the planned replacement of the existing box culvert (carrying Pocotopaug Creek) that crosses Route 66 in front of the American Distillery building on the north side and between the Subway Building and Classic Auto on the south side, in East Hampton. Traffic on Route 66 will be detoured beginning on July 23, 2020, for approximately two weeks.

The project consists of removing the old concrete box culvert structure and concrete endwalls and replacing them with a new reinforced concrete box culvert 7-feet high and 11-feet wide, including new endwalls and wingwalls. Utilities have been temporarily relocated and will be returned to their original location once the new structure is in place. The existing pavement will be replaced between the project limits of roughly the Belltown Smoke Shop property and the Classic Auto property.

DOT Project No. 0041-0118 was awarded to Mizzy Construction, Inc. of Plainville, Connecticut, with an estimated cost of \$2,392,597.00, on February 9, 2020, and is scheduled for completion on October 9, 2020.

### LANE CLOSURE INFO:

Route 66 (East High Street) will be closed to all traffic between American Distillery and Belltown Smoke Shop beginning on July 23, 2020, for approximately two weeks. A well-signed detour will be in place to guide motorists around this construction project. A truck route is included with the detour to ease local congestion in East Hampton.

Prior to and after the Route 66 closure, motorists can expect alternating one-way traffic on Route 66 on a periodic basis to minimize the duration of the road closure to maximum extent possible. Uniformed trafficpersons, municipal police, and signing patterns will be used to direct traffic through the work zone during these times and while the contractor is actively working

Motorists are advised to remain alert and to use caution when driving through work zones.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
TELEPHONE: [\(860\) 594-3062](tel:(860)594-3062)  
FAX: (860) 594-3065  
WEB SITE: [www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot)  
TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/CTDOTOfficial>

- = Road Closed
- = Detour Route
- = Truck Route

