


MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager 
DATE: April 22, 2022
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.

Council Meeting Follow Up

- At the last Council meeting, a draft condition listing and plan for private roads was requested. As of now, the Public Works Director has completed a preliminary inspection of the paved private roads on which the Town performs limited maintenance. The draft rating list is included with this Report for review. The rating system used considers the roads as if they were a public road and does not factor the standard to which the road was originally constructed. Some private roads that would be considered a "failed" roadway if they were public roads may still be serviceable under a private road or driveway standard. With that in mind, the ratings give a picture of the condition of the paved private road network and will help inform the future planning for this basic maintenance effort. Staff anticipates analyzing the private roads in the future as a separate component of the 3-year pavement inspection program undertaken for all public roads, with an annual review/inspection and summary by the Public Works Director as part of the detailed annual planning that is undertaken after winter.

Library

- The Library has welcomed a new part-time team member, Lex Krauth. Lex will be working as a Public Service Associate on the circulation desk and will help to facilitate teen programming.
- The Library is proud to have raised over \$2,800 for CT Draft Horse Rescue and Our Companions Animal Rescue with the silent art auction, which was one part of April's Kindness EHxtravaganza. The Library thanks everyone who participated in making this event a success, either by donating art or by bidding on an item.
- The Library is currently displaying packages received from across the United States and from around the world as the final part of the Kindness EHxtravaganza. Last month, Library staff sent informational packages to other libraries about East Hampton, and in return we asked them to send us their own parcels. All are invited to stop by the Library and browse the displays of what we received to learn a little bit about other communities and cultures!

Parks and Recreation

- As a cooperative effort of the Department and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the CT Department of Transportation, the Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG), RiverCOG has applied for funding of the Air Line Trail project to close the gap behind the Public Works facility west of the RT 66/RT 16 intersection. The application is for federal Congressional earmark funding through Congressman Courtney's office, and it has been sent to Senator Murphy's attention as well. If successful, the funding could cover as much as \$1,120,000 of the \$1.4 million estimated cost of the project greatly reducing the amount of funding needed from the State of Connecticut and the Town.

Police

- On May 11, two members of the Department will participate in a training course being hosted by our Prevention Coordinator, Courtney Widrick, to become certified to operate alcohol and marijuana simulation goggle kits. The training will allow officers to engage individuals at community events to show them the effects that alcohol and marijuana have on the body, specifically the ability to operate motor vehicles.
- On April 30, between 10am and 2pm, the Department, in coordination with the East Hampton Prevention Partnership, will be participating in the DEA National Drug Take Back Day. The goal of the program is to make communities safer and healthier by helping the public dispose of unneeded controlled substances to reduce opioid addiction. The event will be held at the main entrance to the Town Hall utilizing the circular driveway to allow individuals to drive up and drop off the medications. The Department also maintains a permanent Drug Take Back Box in the lobby of the Police Department that can be used during business hours. Since 2018, the Department has collected over 1,136 pounds of medication for safe destruction.

Public Works

- The Edgerton Street reconstruction project is well underway. Edgerton Street pavement has been reclaimed and fine graded. Crews from Public Works are making all minor structure adjustments in preparation for paving, which is scheduled to begin mid-week next week (about April 27). Along with the work on Edgerton Street, Huckleberry Acres, Cedar Ridge Road and Dziok Drive have all been milled and are prepared for paving, which will also take place next week. After paving is complete sidewalks, curbing and driveway aprons will be installed followed by final turf restoration. All work is scheduled to be complete by the end of May.
- Since winter, the Public Works Department and Town Hall have received numerous complaints concerning the condition of roads in the neighborhood east of the High School. After inspection by staff, it has been determined that the top layer of asphalt is severely deteriorated. These

roads were repaved some years ago with a hot in place asphalt reclamation process. One of the down sides of this process is the more rapid oxidation of the top layer of asphalt leading to raveling (segregation of aggregate). The roads in this area were originally scheduled to be milled and paved in the Fall of 2024. However, given this more rapid deterioration, it has been determined to address some of the worst areas as soon as possible to prevent further degradation, which will lead to more costly repairs in the near future. Utilizing funding from the Road Materials account, the following roads will be milled and overlaid with new asphalt: Melburn Avenue, Laurel Glen Drive (from Melburn to Fairlawn), Hills Avenue (from North Maple Street to Fairlawn Avenue) and Beechcrest Drive in its entirety. The remainder of the roads in the neighborhood are also in need of attention and will be worked into the schedule within the next paving cycle or two. In the meantime, Public Works crews will conduct some spot repairs in the area. Working with the contractor for the Edgerton area, staff has been able to arrange for this work to be completed following the completion of the Edgerton area work.

- Staff continues spring maintenance operations including road sweeping and gravel road grading. These activities will continue until all roads have been addressed.

Senior Center

- Senior Services is active with energy assistance and outreach needs. Energy assistance continues through May 31 for people to apply for assistance for the 2022 heating seasons. Approved applicants have until May 2 for fuel authorizations.
- On Friday, April 22, the Center held a Volunteer Recognition Breakfast to celebrate the volunteers who provide immeasurable assistance at the Senior Center.
- Other programming continues at the Center, including
 - Beginning of the Summer Sears Park Picnic on June 14
 - Ongoing collaboration with the Library for programs and the Book Bundle program
 - Three-part series on Future Planning May 4, May 18, and June 1.
 - Developing an older adult oriented Air Line Trail Tour.
 - Circle K Farm visits with goats (kids) to encourage socialization for all in May
 - Ice Cream Truck visit on Cinco De Mayo (May 5) sponsored by National Healthcare.
 - Nature walks resume in May with Naturalist Lynn Kochiss.
- COA sub-committees are meeting to develop recommendations from the COA survey. The Transportation sub-committee still has an opportunity for a Town Council member if one would like to join the committee.

Youth and Family Services

- The East Hampton Prevention Partnership will be holding another Red Watch Program on Saturday, May 14 from 10am to noon at Town Hall. The Mission of the Red Watch band class is to provide juniors & seniors in high school with the knowledge, awareness and skills to prevent toxic drinking deaths and to promote a student culture of kindness, responsibility, compassion and respect. Teens will learn how you can help save a life by identifying and responding appropriately to an alcohol related emergency. Participants will be awarded a red watch and certificate upon completion which symbolizes the "band" of students who are trained to "watch" over one another when "every second counts."
- The Prevention Partnership will be sponsoring a special parent program at East Hampton High School on Tuesday, May 17, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. Stephen Hill, a renowned national speaker on substance use prevention and mental health awareness will be speaking about a truly inspiring personal comeback story. This program is free and open to the public. Stephen will also be speaking to the students during the school day. Parents are highly encouraged to attend so they may have an open discussion about Stephen's story with their children. The first ten parents in the door will receive a \$25 Stop & Shop gift card.
- For the month of April, the Youth and Family Services Department handled 30 heating assistance cases while housing and rental issues are becoming increasingly more of an issue. To date, staff have worked with six families calling for either rental assistance or help with emergency housing. Those in need of emergency housing are directed to 211 and given instructions on how to apply for a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) with housing authorities in the State that have opened their HCV list. The Department also made five referrals, some of which were for outside therapeutic providers.
- The department is working directly with two families on specific issues. One family is temporarily displaced from their rental unit due to housing code issues that are being addressed by the landlord and one family struggling with the recent loss of a family member. Staff from the Department are ensuring that the families have access to food and other services and staff is monitoring the minor children involved.
- On May 26, the Department will host an online event that features the director and creator of Johnny's Ambassadors, a non-partisan, non-profit, grass-roots alliance of individuals and organizations concerned about the harms of youth marijuana use. The speaker will be addressing the misconceptions behind marijuana use and sharing her experience of losing her 19-year-old son to psychosis because of dabbing, a method of using marijuana. Given the importance of this program and the high number of participants the online forum can hold, Youth Services will be advertising the event in the Rivereast and other outlets and inviting other communities to join. A second program will be hosted by Youth Services geared towards high school students and that program will also be shared with communities beyond East Hampton.

Town Manager/Other

- The Town's officially reported COVID rates have continued to rise. In the most recent reporting, the Town is back at the "Red Alert" level and is seeing about three cases per day or a rate of 22.9 daily cases per 100,000 population. Residents are encouraged to maintain safe habits to avoid spreading or suffering severe effects of any illness like staying home when sick, wearing masks when it is appropriate, and staying up to date on vaccines. All who are eligible continue to be encouraged to receive the COVID vaccine, which is available through Chatham Health District and other locations. About 75% of the Town's residents are fully vaccinated for COVID and about 46% have received booster shots.

DC

cc: Management Staff

Private Road Pavement Condition Rating
Conducted April 20, 2022
By Public Works Director Matt Walsh

Road name	Rating 0-100	Comments
Boulder Road	N/A	Gravel
Brook Trail	50	patches and cracking
Byron Road	55	cracking, large patches
Day Point Road	80	Good condition
Fern Lane	45	large patches, cracking, asphalt degradation
Green Road 1	N/A	Gravel
Green Road 2	N/A	Gravel
Hale Road	75	Good condition
Laurel Trail	50	patches and cracking
Markham Lane	N/A	Gravel
Mountain Trail	50	patches and cracking
O'Neil Lane	N/A	Gravel
Park Road	60	cracking
Pine Trail	50	large patches, cracking,
Poe Road	55	patches and cracking
Railroad Avenue	60	patches and cracking
Spellman Point Road	55	patches and cracking
Starr Place	65	patches and cracking
Tennyson Road	70	some patches and cracking
West Avenue	N/A	Gravel