


## MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council  
FROM: David E. Cox, Town Manager   
DATE: April 23, 2021  
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.

### **Assessor**

- The Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) completed hearing 88 cases in which a property owner appealed their valuation. Cases included 85 related to real property, two related to personal property and one related to a motor vehicle. Both personal property cases and the motor vehicle case were granted a change (reduction) in value. Sixty of the real property cases were granted a reduction in value based on information presented by the petitioner. The total reduction in the Grand List by the BAA was \$2,385,904. Overall, growth in the Grand List remains at just over \$35 million or about 3%.

### **Collector of Revenue**

- Next week, the Office of Collector of Revenue will be filing Certificates of Continuing Tax Liens in the Town's Land Records against properties that have delinquent taxes, interest, or other fees from the Town. While the Town does not report these liens to credit reporting agencies, the liens are public record and are, at times, identified by agencies searching land records. Property owners have a few more days to make payments but the current amount of uncollected real estate taxes is \$371,498 or under 1% of the overall levy.

### **Library**

- The Library is the recipient of an unsolicited \$17,000 grant from the Connecticut State Library. These funds originated from the American Rescue Plan Act and are to be used to respond to the pandemic. The Library is actively working with the State Library to understand what these funds can be spent on and will work with the Library Advisory Board to plan for their use.
- The Library circulated 9,588 digital and physical items in March 2021. The Library has only circulated over 9,000 items in a single month twice before in its recorded history.

Circulation is still on track to top 100,000 items this fiscal year, which would be the first time the Library circulated that amount.

- The Friends of the Library has donated \$2,000 to be used towards the Library's Summer Reading Program. The Library sincerely thanks all of the Friends for their hard work fundraising in this difficult time.

### **Parks and Recreation**

- The decision has been made to shut down a portion of the West Soccer field at the High School to allow dirt areas to be back filled and seeded. The closure will last one active growing season to ensure no activities occur on the field to allow seed germination and grass growth to recover from heavy use. The main soccer field in the middle of the track will be utilized for spring games and practices while the West field is closed.
- Sears Park bathrooms will open up to the public on May 3 and will remain open during normal park hours for the season.
- Butler Construction is constructing additional Low Impact Development projects in the Park that will help control run off of nutrients into Lake Pocotopaug. The projects consist of a berm, that will increase the overflow height of the rain garden to allow it to absorb more water and hold back nutrients, and a rip rap swale on the hillside adjacent to the tennis courts to direct water into the upper catch basin. This will allow for more contact time and will reduce the flow velocity of the storm water, which provides a reduction of nutrient loading to the lake.
- The Department has seen a tremendous increase in activity and revenue for the month of April due to increased spring and summer programming being developed and offered through the Program Lead position added this fiscal year. The department continues to roll out new opportunities for the public while remaining vigilant with COVID guidelines.
- Staff is finalizing the hiring of the seasonal employee group, which includes Lifeguards, Summer Camp Staff, Park Maintainers and Gate Attendants. In total, the Department will hire or bring back 43 employees for the summer months.
- The lake aeration systems have been started for the year. The first Data Report for the season is included in this Report and is the data used to determine the start-up date of the aeration system. Aeration turn on is based on anoxic conditions (without oxygen)

and once levels fall below 2.0Mg/L Dissolved Oxygen readings at the deepest locations the systems are started.

### **Police**

- On Saturday, April 24, between the hours of 10:00am and 2:00pm, the Department will be participating in the DEA's National Drug Take Back Day program. The drop off will occur on the circular driveway in front of Town Hall. The goal of this event is to collect unwanted medications and dispose of them properly, so they do not fall into the wrong hands or get misused. The Department also operates a permanent collection box in the Police Department lobby that is available during weekday administrative hours.

### **Public Works**

- Public Works crews are continuing pavement shimming work on White Birch Road. Upon completion crews will mobilize onto Mott Hill Road to conduct pavement shimming there as well. This work is being done in anticipation of these roads being chip sealed in late May or early June. Pavement shimming prior to chip sealing increases rideability of the road, prolongs the life of the chip seal and the pavement structure itself. Some additional drainage work will also be completed near the intersection of Ridgeview Drive and White Birch Road to address a groundwater and icing issue.
- Town-wide street sweeping is nearing completion and will likely wrap up the first week of May.
- Gravel road maintenance is ongoing and will continue weather permitting until all Town maintained gravel roads have been graded and dressed.
- Public Works crews are also continuing with wood pick up from the Town's tree removal operations. It should be noted that Eversource is also conducting tree removal operations and there is a substantial amount of wood to be picked up from its work. Staff is working with Eversource to ensure it is cleaning up wood remaining from its operations.

### **Senior Center**

- The Senior Center is maintaining its open status by appointment only and is providing in-person outdoor programming as weather permits. Classes will run virtually during inclement weather. Additionally, the Center is targeting early June to resume in-person programming inside the Center. This date is contingent upon rate of transmission in our community, vaccination rates and any changes from the Governor's Office or guidance from the State. Staff and Older Adults

look forward to this move for services so that they can meet up with their friends, even though the activities may be limited to start.

- A new intergenerational program will start in May with a 12th grade English class from the High School. Participants will work on collaborative poetry writing.
- In anticipation of resuming congregate meals, a replacement, commercial grade dishwasher is being installed at the Senior Center. Funds from the operating budget were used to purchase the unit, which will help ensure the Center's compliance with health regulations.
- The Senior Center's new Handbook is in the final stages of preparation. The Handbook will be one piece of a 'Welcome' packet staff is developing to provide to each participant, which will provide an overview of operations and information regarding access various programs such as transportation, Elderly Nutrition Program, and Senior Center registration forms.
- Staff from the Center, the Library and the Parks and Recreation Department are meeting to develop continuity in the Town's guidelines regarding outdoor group activities as they relate to COVID and infection control. In particular, discussion involves the use of masks and other measures as the State lifts requirements but recommendations from health professionals still exist.

#### **WPCA**

- WPCA staff is continuing to monitor and work with the Town of Colchester to control odors in the area of the Air Line Trail and the Village Center, which are caused by wastewater flow from Colchester passing through these areas on its way to the treatment plant. Staff has been communicating with Village Center businesses to both provide and receive information. The situation is currently under control.
- As the result of inspections carried out by the WPCA under its annual maintenance program, contractors repaired several manholes and a pump station that were allowing ground water into the system. The repairs have eliminated the daily flow of as much as 40,000 gallons of clear water entering the system for unnecessary treatment. That equates to almost 5% of the Town's daily flow.

#### **Youth and Family Services**

- After interviews were conducted, a final decision on a new Prevention Coordinator will be made soon and that person is expected to be on staff by this summer. As a reminder, that position is funded entirely by grants received by the Town and works

with the Prevention Partnership to develop and present programs that address youth alcohol and drug use.

- Staff will be coordinating a meeting of the Juvenile Review Board in May to work with two cases.

### **Town Manager/Other**

- East Hampton remains at the "Red Alert" under the State's COVID Response Framework but the Town's case rate remained at a lower level. According to the most recent information from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), East Hampton had 32 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the last two weeks, which leads to a two-week average daily positivity rate of 17.8 per 100,000 population. That equates to just over 2 cases each day. The most recent reporting from the DPH indicates the total number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases in East Hampton is now 811 since tracking began in March 2020. Also, according to the most recent data from the State, over 6,500 (50.7%) Town residents have received at least their first dose of the vaccine.
- This week, Town staff and members of the East Hampton Ambulance met with representatives of area Towns and their public ambulance providers as well as representatives of Middlesex Hospital, which provides medical direction, to begin discussing the future of EMS/ambulance service in the area. It was a good first conversation that is expected to lead to expanded discussions regarding formal coordination and, perhaps, regionalization of these services to provide quality, reliable and efficient responses.
- Staff continues to work with the State to finalize the grant agreements and RFQ documents related to water system expansion and interconnection. Additionally, we are communicating with other municipalities, area legislators and other interested parties regarding the coordination of State and local American Recovery Plan funds, other State funds and federal funds to move a project forward.
- Lake Pocotopaug and Village Center clean up events are scheduled for 9 am to noon on Saturday, April 24. Participants should meet at Sears Park for the lake clean up and at the Library for the Village Center clean up. An Air Line Trail clean up event is scheduled for Saturday, May 1 and information and registration is available under "Programs" on the Parks and Recreation website here: <https://easthamptonct.myrec.com/>

DC

cc: Management Staff



# Northeast Aquatic Research, LLC

www.northeastaquaticresearch.net  
74 Higgins Highway  
Mansfield Center, CT 06250  
April 19, 2020



TO: Residents of East Hampton, CT  
ATTN: Jeremy Hall, Parks and Recreation Director  
Town of East Hampton Conservation Lake Commission  
FROM: Hillary Kenyon Garovoy, Certified Lake Manager

## RE: Results from April 2021 Water Quality Monitoring Visits

Please see the water clarity and oxygen profile results from the April 2021 monitoring visit. It is evident that the lake has started to warm, and there is slight oxygen loss at the bottom of the two main Oakwood and Markham sampling stations. The aerators should be turned on soon, to avoid further oxygen loss for the 2021 season. The water is notably warmer this year than it was around the same time in April 2020. Warm spring temperatures cause stratification to begin earlier in the season.

Water clarity was generally poor, ~1.7 meters across the sampling stations across. Clarity was similar during April 2020. Poor clarity is not unusual for Pocotopaug, and spring clarity is usually dominated by Diatom algae. Algae samples were taken at each monitoring location but have not yet been identified. Water samples were taken and sent to the lab for nutrient analyses.

### Markham Station (41.59949, -72.49493)

Sampling Date: 04/19/2021  
Water clarity: 1.8 meters  
Water depth: 8.0 meters  
Weather: Sunny, very calm

Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	Oxygen (mg/L)	Oxygen Saturation %
0	12.5	10.5	100
1	12.1	10.5	99
2	11.7	10.2	96
3	11.5	10.1	94
4	11.3	10.0	93
5	11.2	9.0	92
6	10.8	8.8	81
7	10.4	7.7	79
8	9.4	2.9	26

### Oakwood Station (41.59758, -72.50849)

Sampling Date: 04/19/2021  
Water clarity: 1.7 meters  
Water depth: 10.5 meters  
Weather: Sunny, slight breeze

Depth (m)	Temp (°C)	Oxygen (mg/L)	Oxygen Saturation %
0	12.1	10.3	98
1	11.7	10.3	96
2	11.5	10.3	96
3	11.3	10.1	93
4	11.1	9.8	91
5	11.1	9.8	90
6	11.1	9.7	90
7	11.0	9.7	90
8	11.0	9.5	88
9	10.6	8.5	78
10	9.7	2.9	25
10.5	9.4	0.9	8

**Island Station (41.59668722, -72.50117)**

Sampling Date: 04/19/2021

Water clarity: 1.7 meters

Water depth: 6.3 meters

Weather: Sunny, slight breeze

<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Temp (°C)</b>	<b>Oxygen (mg/L)</b>	<b>Oxygen Saturation %</b>
<b>0</b>	12.1	10.3	98
<b>1</b>	11.8	10.3	96
<b>2</b>	11.5	10.3	96
<b>3</b>	11.4	10.2	95
<b>4</b>	11.4	10.2	94
<b>5</b>	11.3	10.2	94
<b>6</b>	11.1	9.9	92
<b>6.3</b>	10.9	8.7	80