



Memorandum

06/24/2016

To: Town Council
Department Heads
Town Citizens

From: Graham Waters, Town Manager

Re: TM Report - Week of June 19– June 25

The following is a report of events and projects that have taken place over the past week. Some of them involved town staff collaboration; other items listed are updates to the Council on ongoing Town matters. **Should Councilmembers or the citizens of Coventry have follow up inquiries regarding matters listed in this report, they may contact the Town Manager directly at gwaters@coventryri.org or by phone at (401) 821-6400.**

- The Town Manager attended the monthly Emergency Management committee meeting. Topics covered included, but are not limited to: Update on the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, Code Red sign up progress, discussion on the p/t EMA Assistant position, the upcoming August Hurricane Readiness Conference, and incident command training school opportunities.
- On Monday evening, June 20th, the Town Manager met with Councilmember LaBoissonniere to discuss Town business and have an incremental, in-person, update of Town business and matters.
- On Wednesday, June 22nd, the Town Manager meet with Councilwoman Carlson to discuss outstanding issues and concerns the Councilwoman had about Town affairs.
- Greene School notified the Town that it will no longer be seeking any opportunity to utilize the Town's Oak Haven facility. Previously, there were discussions about occupying the space, but it was not meant to be. The Town will continue to look for opportunities to occupy the building, along with all other vacant facilities the Town has custody over.
- The Town Manager attended a Q&A session on the wind turbines at the Greene Library on June 21st. The event lasted from approximately 7-9:30 PM with a lively discussion. The event was sponsored by the Town (initiated and carried out by the fine staff at the Greene Library branch.) The event was well attended by Coventry residents and served as a good platform for discussion on the topic of turbines.
- The Town received complaints about the development being erected off of Station Street, known as "Stonehill Estates." Complaints consisted of erosion issues and lack of dust control. The Planning and Building Departments were responsive to the complaints. The Town is fortunate to have residents who report problems, and act as an extra set of eyes and ears of enforcement.
- On Wednesday, June 22nd, the Town held a successful Tax Sale (auction) of properties delinquent on their tax liabilities to the Town. A record number of participants registered and the Town collected over \$200,000 in overdue property taxes.

- On June 22nd, the Town Manager and Director of Finance meet with representatives of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue. This introductory meeting was also used to discuss Town Finances and the current status of the Town's debt service and pension obligations.
- On Thursday, June 23rd, the Town staff Safety Committee meet for its regularly scheduled meeting. Issues discussed included security improvements in Town Hall, the current status of injury and liability claims, new safety policies that the Town is considering implementing, and other matters of safety involving Town employees.
- The Town Manager met with the Acting Supervisors of the Park and Recreation Department to begin selecting candidates to interview for the vacant Parks and Recreation Director Position. There are more than eight potential; candidates, and interviews are expected to start July 1st. Hopefully, the position will be filled in July.
- The Town Manager attended the monthly Rhode Island Managers Association meeting in Warwick. Items discussed included legislation passed by the General Assembly and awaiting the Governor's signature. As well as professional development needs of Rhode Island Managers.
- On Friday June 24th, the Town Manager, representatives from the Public Works Department; Boston Scientific; the Police Department; Central, Western, West Warwick and North Kingstown Fire Departments, participated in a mock disaster exercise of a chemical gas leak. This event stemmed from a conversation at one of the monthly EMA committee meetings. This event was also the first event of its kind held in several years. The Town Manager has asked the EMA committee to hold these exercises on a more regular basis, to help prepare and be ready for when an actual disaster does strike. Kendra Miller, of the Kent County Times, was on scene and will be publishing a news article about the event.
- **On Saturday, June 25th**, the Town Manager will be visiting the EMA Ham Radio Field Day event at Central Coventry Park. The 24 hour competition tests the skills of the Town's Ham Radio hobbyists and is an excellent event for emergency preparedness. Attached to this report is a flyer providing additional information on the event. **Councilmembers are strongly encouraged to visit the event.**

Police Department

- Attached (Attachment_1) to this report are targeted traffic enforcement areas in the Town. These targeted areas are a result of resident complaints about traffic in the respective areas.

Town Library

- Registration has started for the library's Summer Reading Program (SRP) – "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!"
- Over 40 teens have registered to help with the SRP to earn community service hours for school, scouts, etc.
- We just learned today that library grant-in-aid for FY 2017 was increased from 21.17% to 23.65%, a significant boost!

Department of Parks and Recreation

- The Town's Fishing Derby will take place at Tiogue Lake on Saturday, June 25.
- Training Camp for Camp Coordinators took place on Thursday, June 23. We are prepared and ready for camp to start on July 5. Thus far, **450 children will be attending**. Camp Counselor's will be attending training on Monday, June 27. CPR for all staff will be held June Tuesday, June 28.

- Project Friends will now be taking their Snack Shop to P&R to assist with snacks/drinks for campers. This will also be a valuable training sight for the Project Friends Program, as the State is now requiring job training/readiness/developing for all clients.
- Briar Point Bootcamp to start on Wednesday, June 29 at 6 am. We have 25 people signed up thus far.
- Water quality tests were performed at Green Acres/Breezy Lake this week with a slightly elevated result which has resulted in a closure of that beach. Re-testing will be performed on Monday 6/27 to confirm the prior reading or to find if it was an anomaly.
- The Parks Division has brought the fields and beaches to par for the start of the Summer Camp programs and sports leagues.
- The Parks Division will begin the preliminary work for three projects this summer; Library Tot Lot, Wood Street Field Expansion and Sandy Bottom Recreation Area completion

Department of Public Works

- The work on Sandy Bottom Road is being done by a contractor for Kent County Water Authority to install new water mains. There is no further update on the proposed work for the bridge per Rhode Island Department of Transportation Bridge Engineering Division.
- The Larvacide treatment of the catch basins for mosquito abatement has been completed.
- The parking area at the boat ramp for Tiogue Lake on Tiogue Avenue, across from Del's Lemonade, had asphalt millings installed and graded to eliminate the deep ruts and provide a better transition to the boat ramp.
- The Spring tasks continue, street sweeping, brush trimming and pothole repairs.

Department of Human Services

- DHS is moving along with the renovations of the bathrooms; expected opening 6-28-2016.
- Usually things slow down a bit in the summer; it doesn't seem to be happening this summer so far.
- DHS is also planning some program initiatives, one of which will involve adolescent females who have or may be at risk for substance abuse issues.



Traffic Enforcement Briefing

Sunday 06/19/16 – 06/26/16

1. **269 Station St.** – Resident reports speeding vehicles. Patrols please use his driveway to sit for enforcement. We will be using speed trailer in near future as well as conducting a traffic study to monitor speeds. The town is considering stop signs at Ginger Trail and Highwood Dr.
2. **60 Clark Mill St.** – Resident reports speeding vehicles using it as a cut through to Arbor Dr. A traffic study will be conducted this week. The town is considering a stop sign at Clark Mill St. at Arbor Dr.
3. **Fairview Ave. (North End)** – Speeding vehicles during evening hours.
4. **Waterman Hill Rd.** - A second traffic study being completed within days. Hopefully it will show a reduction based on our increased enforcement. I will periodically throw out the speed trailer.
5. **Longfellow Dr.** – Speeding vehicles reportedly “using the neighborhood as a racetrack”. Speed trailer has been put out several times.
6. **Helen Dr.** - Speeding vehicles.

Patrols - please make efforts to increase traffic enforcement in these areas.



**Town of Coventry
Emergency Management
1075 Main Street
Coventry, Rhode Island 02816
Col. John S. MacDonald, Director**



June 16, 2016

Dear Mr. Waters,

As a Communicator for the Coventry EMA (CEMA), I would like to extend an invitation for you to meet with the Amateur Radio operators of CEMA as we participate in the national Field Day event, on June 25th at 2pm to June 26th at 2pm, at Central Coventry Park 350 Provident Place.

Field Day is an event to practice Emergency Communications nationwide under controlled circumstances. This year we are operating with support from RIEMA (RI Emergency Management Agency) and RIDMAT (RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team).

ARRL (American Radio Relay League) Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies and an informal contest. During 2015 Field Day we had over 40 participants and placed #1 in RI, #1 in New England and #7 in the Country within our category.

Amateur Radio operators provide a critical public service for our community; during times of disaster, we are able to provide reliable communications when the normal infrastructure is offline. Licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and trained in the art and science of radio communication and basic electronics theory.

ARRL, our national organization, has built relationships with several served agencies including FEMA, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and many others.

We would love the opportunity to show you our capabilities in person.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

Lee F. Bessette, RPL
Communications