



## Memorandum

08/26/2016

**To:** Town Council  
Department Heads  
Town Citizens

**From:** Graham Waters, Town Manager

**Re:** TM Report – Week of August 21 – August 27, 2016

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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](mailto:gwaters@coventryri.org) or by phone at (401) 821-6400.**

- The Town welcomes Raena Blumenthal as its new Parks and Recreation Director. Ms. Blumenthal started with the Town on Monday August 22, 2016. Please stop in and say “hello” at the Coventry Recreation Community Center, 1277 Main Street.
- According to an article published by the Providence Journal from July, the local SolarCity Operations Center is expanding and anticipating on hiring more employees to meet the growth. Apparently operating in Coventry since last summer, the company has plans to expand its local workforce from the current 20 employees to a potential 200. This is a tenfold increase in the number of employees in the local operations center.
- The Town has prevailed in one of its outstanding lawsuits. The Courts have decided in favor of the Town’s defense in Coventry v. Teixeira.
- The Town Manager and Town Tax Collector met with the Lieutenant Governor on Friday, August 26. In a fruitful discussion, the Town was inquiring about assistance the Lieutenant Governor’s Office can provide to local municipalities to advocate on municipal issues. The Lieutenant Governor of course being the former Mayor of Cumberland, RI.
- The Town Manager, Director of Finance, and departmental staff met with the local operations manager of the Boston Scientific facility. A productive visit, the town delegation received a tour of the plant and saw first-hand the processes in place for how Boston Scientific sanitizes medical equipment. Boston Scientific brought up issues it is having finding qualified applicants to fill several job openings; they’re not sure of the reason but the Town will assist where it can in locating qualified candidates. This problem seems to be endemic of a larger problem in the nation and state of finding the right skilled candidates for jobs that are available. The town delegation also discussed ways Boston Scientific and the Town can work together in the future to have a symbiotic relationship.

### **Police Department**

- Department members met this week with Northeast Collaborative Architects take a first look at the initial design for the proposed Coventry Public Safety and Human Services complex at Wood Street. The police and human services are targeting September 22 for a public meeting and roll out of the proposed complex. The Police Chief met with a RIDOT representative to discuss potential studies of wood street and the scheduled repair of the bridge on Sandy Bottom Rd.

## **Department of Human Services**

- Social Workers continue to assess clients to assist with back to school clothes/shoes and supplies.
- Social Workers are beginning to update “Tis the Season” list in data base which will facilitate upcoming assessments in order to assist families through the upcoming holiday season.
- 38 of our Coventry residents and staff attended the DHS monthly breakfast.
- DHS Staff met with auditors this week with no issues reported.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **PARK PROPERTIES**

Briar Point Beach: The quarterly lead test was conducted on August 24, 2016 by Alliance Environmental Group, Inc. The result is expected next week.

Wood Street Field: Removal of remaining trees for playfield expansion has been completed. Loam and seed fill completed for field voids.

Rice Field: Perimeter and grass trimmings were made under bleachers in anticipation of football season. Grass has continued to get mowed.

### **MISCELLANEOUS PARKS & RECREATION**

Continued routine trash removal at all park locations (Monday and Friday). Continued routine mechanical maintenance. Parks & Recreation administrative staff training for MyRec.com, which is recreation software with online registration, was completed. Planning for the upcoming fall season’s scheduled events and related promotion is underway.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

Library Tot Lot: A meeting has been set-up between Raena Blumenthal and Lynn Blanchette (Coventry Public Library) next week to discuss moving the Tot Lot project forward. An inventory of equipment/materials needed to complete the project will be done next week, too.

Other: Raena Blumenthal met with Kevin McGee, Department of Public Works, to discuss upcoming needs and to tour park properties. A meeting between Raena Blumenthal and Don Fascio, Parks Foreman, is planned for August 29 (when he returns from vacation). To be discussed: Sandy Acres Recreation Area completion and Wood Street Field expansion.