



Memorandum

09/02/2016

To: Town Council
Department Heads
Town Citizens

From: Graham Waters, Town Manager

Re: TM Report – Week of August 28 – September 3, 2016

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 Pension and Investment Board met for its quarterly update meeting. Across the Police, Municipal, and Town investment funds, returns were positive for the last quarter and year-to-date.
- On Monday August 29, the Town Manager met with Councilman McGee to discuss relevant Town issues. This meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting the Town Manager has with all Councilmembers on a regular basis to keep up-to-date with them.
- On Tuesday August 30, the Town Manager met with Wayne Asselin, the recently appointed Councilmember to fill the Ward 5 vacancy. The conversation was very productive and discussed Mr. Asselin's views on the Town and his expectations while he serves his brief tenure.
- The proposal for a Town fence ordinance went before the Planning Commission. The commission felt there are sufficient guidelines in place with existing state and local laws. I have attached a memo to this report from Assistant Planning Director, Matthew Sarcione.

Police Department

Police Range Operations - Coventry Police Officers conducted firearms training this week which focused on transitioning officers to their new Glock duty pistols. The training is also focused on accommodating officers to train and familiarize themselves with their new duty holsters. A training portion was also instituted that focuses on officer's mindset, marksmanship, and mechanics as it relates to deploying their duty weapon. The training was expanded two additional hours to accommodate the additional training time.

Police DUI Enforcement - Sgt. DeSisto attended a two day DUI Summit held by the newly formed Impaired Driving Prevention Alliance. With a fatal motor vehicle crash occurring every 53 minutes in this country, crashes caused by alcohol/drug impairment are 100% preventable. Rhode Island lost 20 preventable lives last year on our roads. The group's goal is ZERO fatalities and everyone from RISP and Local Police, Judges, Prosecutors, Treatment Providers, Highway Engineers, Community Groups, and Media Consultants got together to take on this epidemic full force. A keynote speaker also spoke to the group on current drug use and drug trends present in our communities.

EMA CodeRED Message - A CodeRED message was sent out town wide on Wednesday this week. In an event of an emergency, Coventry officials would issue alerts through CodeRED, a high-speed notification solution. The CodeRED system allows messages to be quickly delivered to targeted areas or the entire town. Wednesday's message served as a

performance test of the system contacting everyone who is currently in the State of RI emergency 911 database. Receiving a test message will assure that residents will receive a message when an actual alert is issued by town officials. Residents who have not enrolled to receive emergency CodeRED notifications, or did not receive a test message should immediately visit the Town website, Police Dept. and Coventry EMA Facebook site and click the CodeRED logo to enroll. There you may enroll your Cell phones to receive text and email notifications as well.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

- Activity at DHS is on its usual increase with programs, everyone is back from vacation. The Department has two interns from CCRI who will be working with folks on Food Bank recertification, and later in the fall the department will do the recertification for the Low Income Heating Assistance Program.
- DHS met again with the architects on building drawings which are looking very good. The department is also planning our “Meet and greet” for residents around this building as well as anyone who would like to know about the plan.

Department of Parks and Recreation

Fall programs and classes have been finalized. Preparations for the online registration process and creation of promotional materials are underway.

PARK PROPERTIES

Wood Street Field Expansion

Removed batting cage poles and footings. Began to regrade batting cage area.

MISCELLANEOUS PARKS & RECREATION

Continued routine weekly mowing and maintenance of beaches, fields, and the Coventry Greenway.

PROJECT UPDATES

Library Tot Lot: A meeting has been set up for next week with a Little Tikes representative to discuss the appropriate layout for the planned playground. Raena Blumenthal (Parks & Recreation), Don Fascio (Parks & Recreation), and Lynn Blanchette (Coventry Public Library) will be in attendance.

Other: Raena Blumenthal, Parks Director, asked Don Fascio, Parks Foreman, to create an action plan and implementation timeline for the Library’s Tot Lot, Sandy Acres Recreation Area, and Wood Street Field expansion.

Town Library

- Completed our Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults.
- Met with Raena Blumenthal (Director Parks and Recreation) to discuss tot lot construction.
- Met with Literacy Volunteers of Kent County to begin long range plan work.
- Attended Rotary breakfast to receive check from 5K.
- Continuing work to finish the library’s annual report to the state.



Town of Coventry
Department of Planning & Development
1675 Flat River Rd., Coventry, RI 02816
Phone (401) 822-9184 Fax (401) 822-6236

DATE: August 26, 2016

TO: Graham Waters, Town Manager
The Town Council

FROM: Matthew Sarcione, Assistant Planner

RE: Discussion on Merits of Pursuing a New Fence Ordinance

At their regularly scheduled meeting on July 25, 2016, the Town Council briefly discussed what the present Zoning Ordinance, as well as state law, says in regards to fences in residential zones. The Town Council then requested that the Planning Department get a recommendation from the Planning Commission on the merits of pursuing a potential new Zoning Ordinance related to fences. Potential changes that were discussed included alteration of setbacks, a requirement to notify neighbors, and different height requirements, among others.

On August 24, 2016, the Planning Commission had a discussion concerning the current fence ordinance, state law, potential changes to the ordinance, and how other communities in Rhode Island regulate fences. After discussing, the Planning Commission chose not to pursue any changes to the manner in which Coventry regulates fences. It was the feeling of the Commission that the current ordinance clearly and effectively regulates fences without being too burdensome on property owners.

If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Matthew Sarcione,
Assistant Planner