



## Memorandum

09/30/2016

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

**From:** Robert Thibeault, Acting Town Manager

**Re:** TM Report – Week of September 25 – September 30, 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.**

### Police Department

- **SWAT Stand Off** (From Colonel MacDonald): I am extremely proud of the way our officers performed during the long hours of this two day operation. As a former member of our Coventry West Warwick SWAT team, I am very pleased to see years of training validated in their performance during this ongoing standoff. Our officers are some of the finest in this state and they conducted themselves in an outstanding and professional manner helping to bring this situation to peaceful conclusion. I will be posting a thank you our officers and all the SWAT Teams and supporting agencies who supported our efforts on our social media page tomorrow. Thank you to DPW and Central Coventry Fire who supported us during the operation as well. And special thanks to all the residents who sent food and showed support to our officers during this difficult operation.

### Finance Office

- The Treasury Department continues to work with the auditors on the FY16 Audit.
- The Finance Director worked with the Celebrate Coventry Committee to finalize insurance coverage for its Legend of Sleepy Hollow event, which will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Finance Director, in his capacity as the Town's Risk Control Officer, coordinated with DPW staff on Safety & Risk improvements to the Town Hall building.

## **Parks & Recreation Department**

- **Personnel:** Interviews for the administrative assistant/bookkeeper position have concluded. Cheryl Wilcox and Raena Blumenthal will discuss top candidates and make a final decision next week.
- **Maintenance:** The first of monthly maintenance staff meetings, to review safety and health procedures, has begun. Mark Robitaille led the first meeting on Tuesday, 9/27. The topic was Recommended Personal Protective Equipment for Chain Saw, Chipping and Trimming Practices. Every month will have a different topic.
- **Guy L. Lefebvre Community Center:** Fire Chief Peter Lamb and Raena Blumenthal met to discuss a fire emergency and evacuation plan for 1277 Main St. (Community Center).
- **Library Tot Lot:** A representative from the Governor's Commission on Disabilities met with Raena Blumenthal and Don Fascio on Thursday, 9/29. No changes to the playground layout, design or components were necessary. Development of the playground will start on Monday, 10/3.

## **Department of Public Works**

The following are items that the Public Works Department was involved in this week:

- The Roads & Bridges crew continued work on the Prospect Street Drainage Project
- Crews continued Brush Cutting- Pothole Repair- Asphalt Berms- Road Grading
- Spot sweeping was performed after the rains put more sand on certain roads
- The asphalt milling began this week on Black Walnut Drive as part of the 2016 Asphalt Improvement Project

## **Library**

- Peggie Facker has been hired as the new Branch Librarian at Greene. She begins her duties on October 4th.
- October is Monster Month at Coventry Library: movies, games, programs, and more!
- The library is bringing chair yoga classes to Knotty Oak Village beginning October 17th.
- Fall story programs began September 26th.
- Spanish language classes have resumed in the Annex.
- Several successful adult programs have been held recently at both Coventry and Greene including: nature walk, General Nathanael Greene, and "Maritime Ghosts and Seafaring Spirits". Ongoing adult programs continue as well.

## **Human Services**

Coventry Substance Abuse Task Force in collaboration with DHS and Cranston Community Action Program resumed the Teen Empowerment and Healthy Decisions program (one group for females & one group for males) at the Coventry Middle School. The following topics will be discussed over a six week period.

\*Targeting all forms of substance abuse-prevention and education

- \*Promoting skills to resist drug offers
- \*Building social competency skills
- \*Promoting youth health and safety
- \*Promoting healthy social and physical decisions
- \*Anger management strategies

- Truancy Court resumed for 2016/2017 school year. DHS continues to collaborate with School Department, Detective Richard Pendola and Magistrate Paulhus to ensure needs of not only the students but their families are being met.
- Social Workers continue to assess families for assistance through upcoming Holidays and heating season as well as food bank re-certifications.
- As part of Tis the season we have reached out once again to local businesses, schools, town agencies, associations etc. in an effort to garner their support for our General Tis and Adopt-A-Family programs.
- Coventry Substance Abuse Task Force and DHS are collaborating with Joe Lucian, Vice Principal Coventry High School and Detective Richard Pendola on campaign to encourage seat belt use. Movie tickets will be used as an incentive for buckling up and signing a no drinking pledge for homecoming and upcoming proms.
- Pat Fleming met with about 75 residents during Monday Night Bingo to inform them about the proposed Human Services and Police Complex.
- Stefanie Weber has started seeing residents to provide information and education on Medicare Plans as we will be entering open enrollment in October.

### **Information Technology**

During the weeks of 9/12/16 to 10/1/16 (IT Director Warzycha on vacation first two weeks) the Information Technology Department was/is working on several projects along with taking care of the day to day problems and issues that repeatedly occur with users, computers and networks. The projects being worked on this time period include but not limited to:

- Completed the work of setting up the coventryri.gov email system with google....currently operation with gwaters, ewarzycha and chaughton email accounts
- Began installing security cameras in the DPW area. The system is operational and recording the entrance areas of the compound. In the process of installing additional cameras.
- Completed several substantial updates/changes to the web page.
- Continued work on researching the acquisition, regulations, legalities and cost of using a quad copter for various municipal functions.
- Working on the E-Rec system and the elimination of the use of paper requisitions by town departments.

## Planning Department

- **Coventry Solar:** Deep Water Wind, LLC is proposing to construct a 20+ acre 3.75 MW Major Solar Installation on a 40+ acre site adjacent to Hopkins Hollow Road. The land is currently owned by the Camp Greene Association. The camp has not been utilized for many years. The applicant will need to secure approvals from both the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Review. A 3.75 MW solar facility would typically provide energy for approximately 500 houses. A Pre-Application Review hearing was conducted on June 22nd; on June 29th the Planning Commission conducted a site inspection of the premises; and on July 27th there was a continuation of the Pre-Application Review Process. The applicant has filed a Petition for Master Plan approval which was heard in part on September 28, 2016. The applicant has proposed a re-arrangement in the location of the solar panels. Certain of the Planning Commission members recommended that the panel array be more centrally located on the property so as to be less intrusive on the neighbors. The matter was scheduled for further hearing on October 26th.
- **State Preservation Grant:** On August 18th the Town submitted a grant application for repainting & rehabilitation of Read School to the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. The grant terms are such that the Town must contribute \$1 for every \$2 of State funds. The Read School (c. 1832) is in need to scraping & painting the exterior of the structure as well as repairing the entrance doors. The structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 20, 2002. We are awaiting a decision from RIPHC.
- **Heritage Estates:** The proposed 26-Lot Major Residential Subdivision (located to the rear of Stonegate Estates) has previously received Master Plan & Preliminary Plan approval. Due to the national recession, the State tolled all approved developments until July 1, 2017. The developer has indicated a desire to proceed at this time with the project. The matter was heard before the Planning Commission at its September 28th meeting at which time the Commission granted Final Plan approval to a 25 lot residential subdivision.
- **Tony's Clam Shack:** A seasonal seafood restaurant, similar to Warwick's Rocky Point Chowder House, is being proposed to be located at the intersection of Route 3 and Reservoir Road. The matter was heard by the Planning Commission on Pre-Application Review on September 28, 2016.
- **Crompton Meadows:** The developer proposes to construct 156 4-unit duplexes adjacent to Crompton Road. 25% of the units will be low & moderate income housing. Ingress/egress will be from East Greenwich. The matter was heard on Pre-Application Review by the Planning Commission on September 28th.