

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

January 24, 2022

There is a lot happening beyond work on the budget. Perhaps the biggest item, to me at least, is that there is finally movement on the removal of the Weathersfield Dam. Mount Ascutney Regional Commission has been working behind the scenes on this project and has come up with a plan and cost estimate. The total project cost is estimated at roughly \$790,000, with a town match of \$120,000 to \$140,000. The Town has \$150,000 reserved for this project. Due to the complex funding package (includes both federal and state dollars), it is likely that project will happen in either 2023 or 2024.

I have reached out to MARC to start the process to do the Elm Hill Sidewalks as was proposed several years ago. I'm hoping that the Town can obtain a similar funding package as we did for the South Street sidewalks. I understand that this will take time, but we need to move forward on a project that is already designed that is in a school neighborhood.

I've met with Roger Dickinson and Jason Rasmussen on the Toonerville Trail Extension. As you recall, they came to a Board meeting in December and received public input. The purpose of this meeting was to follow up on the questions raised and explore what options can be reasonably pursued to keep the project moving.

There is also much happening in Human Resources. Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Keith Eno has tendered his resignation. Keith has been with the Town for nearly 10 years. In addition, Officer Steve Neily has also tendered his resignation after years of service. Both of these gentlemen are relocating out of state with their families. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors. I am happy to announce the return of one the officers who had left the department last fall. William Singleton will be returning to Springfield Police next month.

The Town has posted for the following positions:

Police Officer

Police Sergeant (including Detective Sergeant)

Human Resources Manager

Director of Parks and Recreation

Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

Information on all positions can be found on the Town's website.

In addition, with the promotion of Paul Stagner to Deputy Chief, the Town is undergoing an internal process to fill his vacated Captain position. Expecting that this process will be successful, the Town has also begun searching for a new Firefighter/EMT.

As you can see, Donna will be VERY busy for the remainder of her employment with the Town!