

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

April 22, 2024

On Tuesday, April 16th, I attended another meeting in Charlestown to discuss the impact of the proposed Cheshire Bridge closure in 2025. A group of businesses have grouped together to hire a lobbyist in their effort to delay the project to look for an alternative to closing the bridge for 38 weeks. The focus of their efforts is to first delay the project, then work with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation on a more palatable alternative in a year or two.

On April 11th, I met with representatives from FEMA, Vermont Emergency Management, and the State Historic Preservation Office about the Town's application for a FEMA grant to remediate the liability to the Town caused by the condition of the Weathersfield Dam. The next steps in the process are the development of the Historic Resource Documentation Package (HRDP) and the development of an exhibit or website that focuses on the history of the Springfield water system. I believe that once these two items are finished, the Town will, finally, receive the grant. As this process has taken much longer than expected, I will have to reach out to the State to extend the demolition permit, which currently expires in October of this year. Slow progress.

On April 11th, Board Member Heather Frahm and I went to Barre for a full day workshop on Long-Term Capital Planning. The Vermont Bond Bank sponsored the workshop. Both Heather and I came back with ideas to bring to the new Long-Term Capital Planning Committee.

After the recent sewer main break along River Street, the State required the Town to camera the sewer main adjacent to the break. This work was completed April 15th. Unfortunately, the camera revealed that the adjacent pipe is in very poor condition and needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Wastewater Superintendent Nate Fraser is working with Dufresne Group to develop a plan for further evaluation of the line down

to the middle of town. They are also working on obtaining funding for this emergency project.