

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: November 17, 2021

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- Facility Use Policy – I have been asked by arts organizations to amend the Town's policy as it relates to using Town Hall. Specifically, I have been asked to eliminate building rental fees for Clinton-based, non-profit users. All users would still pay for custodial overtime which the Town incurs as a result of the rental. Only those users that are not based in Clinton or are local, for-profit entities would pay a rental fee for the space. The policy brings us in alignment with how the Board of Education rents their spaces (although the rental rate charged is much higher and has a minimum number of hours).

In terms of history, rent charged has varied in the past which makes it hard to determine a consistent pattern of who pays and who does not. In terms of budget impact, the rental fee is part of the Town's assumed revenue mix but it is small. I need some Council direction on how you want to proceed so a policy can be updated.

- Wayfinding Signage – The Town secured a STEAP grant from the State which was primarily aimed at downtown façade improvements. At the time, the State wanted a direct financial contribution from the Town to the project. The Council approved a local match and I wrote the grant for the match to help fund new signage in Town. Specifically, the business directional signage at Grove Street, Commerce Street and Exit 63 were targeted to replacement/updating. At this point, we have pricing from vendors and the EDC has discussed the businesses to appear on the signage. We now need to take the next step in implementing this part of the grant project. I am looking for Council input on two of the designs (attached). These signs use a logo previously developed but unapproved by the Town Council.
- Fish Ladder Grant – Previously, the Council acted to seek a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) which would fund the design of a fish ladder to bring migratory fish in Long Island Sound into inland breeding grounds (the Upper Mill Pond which is behind the Big Y and now more visible from the renewed viewing platform). The NFWF has completed its most recent grant round and it appears that the Town was successful in securing this grant. Success with this grant helps position the Town for further NFWF grants that would fund construction of the fish ladder. When built, the fish ladder would be maintained and monitored by the State DEEP.

- MIRA – As some of you may know, solid waste management is changing in Connecticut moving from a trash-to-energy model to landfilling in other states. Our waste is directed to MIRA who will be shipping it west. To get the most favorable pricing MIRA was looking to amend the agreement of every participating town. The Council gave some feedback on our interest in changing the agreement. I now have a proposed amendment for review. Ultimately, this will require Council approval and I will place it on a future agenda for action.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments held a special meeting on November 22 for the primary purpose of acting on a resolution that would create an Economic Development District in the COG region which would ultimately aim to leverage future federal dollars distributed by the federal Economic Development Agency (EDA). The EDA has asked for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region and they are going to provide funding (through OPM) for that purpose. The steps in the process are designating the area a Regional Economic Development District through OPM and DECD. The CEDS comes second. After the completion of the CEDS, it must be approved first by the State and endorsed by the Governor before moving on to the EDA for final approval. Funding is only secured after the EDA approves of the regional CEDS.

I have participated in two regional CEDS projects before. The development of a regional strategy can take 18-24 months depending on complexity and issues to be resolved.

3. 9 Town Transit:

The full Board of 9 Town Transit met on November 19, 2021. The Expansion Transition Committee also met at the end of November. The focus remains on the merger with Middletown Transit. MAT towns are working through their process to seek membership in 9 Town Transit in accordance with an understanding with the DOT. Scope of work for implementation studies are being prepared and we are still looking for guidance from the DOT on funding approvals for positions that are important to the merged district.

4. Connecticut River Area Health District:

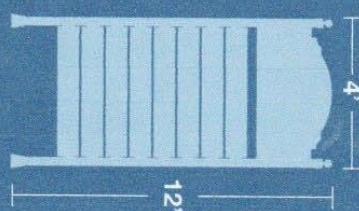
The CRAHD Board is scheduled to meet in mid-December. With the recent addition of a new COVID variant, I would expect a lot more information to discuss at that time.

5. Miscellaneous:

- Historic Preservation Grant – Previously, the Council approved a grant to be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office to fund a consultant to aid in documenting the historic assets in the Commerce Avenue/Leffingwell Road area. Grant funding will be considered at a SHPO meeting scheduled for December 1.

Post Road & Grove

9 Local Business Plaques

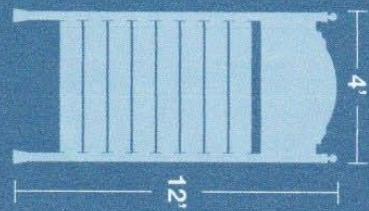


Town of Clinton
Signage PHASE 1



Post Road & Commerce

8 Local Business Plaques



Town of Clinton
Signage PHASE 1

