

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: June 1, 2022

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

1. Council Business:

- Affordable Housing Plan – As noted previously, Clinton is mandated to adopt an Affordable Housing Plan per State Statute. A committee was put together to receive data from a consultant team assembled by the Council of Governments (who is funding the effort for Clinton and a number of other towns). The Plan is moving forward and needs to be reviewed by the Committee as a next step. Ultimately, the Plan will come to the Town Council for approval/adoption. Based on the current timeline, the could be an action item for late June or July.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments met on May 10, 2022. Highlights of the meeting included; adoption of the FY23 budget for the COG, a regional bid for document digitization is moving forward with site assessments for those town's interested in participating, the future of MIRA was discussed along with how some in the region might respond to the changing solid waste landscape, and the COG once again will have interns to assist towns interested in the SustainableCT program.

3. Miscellaneous:

- Eversource Tree Removal Pilot Program – Eversource has identified Clinton to participate in a pilot program that would improve the resilience of their distribution system. There are two circuits in town that have reliability issues during storm events. As such Eversource would like to see tree removal in the fall zone when a tree that is further than 10 feet from their lines could fall and snap wires. The wider field for tree removal is part of the pilot. Eversource would also grind the stump and involve the property owner in planting a replacement tree/shrub. Eversource is also promoting trees/shrubs which have an added benefit for pollinators. The Tree Warden will take the program to the Tree Committee for their input. As with all trimming, the property owner needs to consent to any tree removal.
- CRAHD Mosquito Control Program – CRAHD will be treating catch basins again to help control the mosquito population and the problems that can come from mosquitos (Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus). Field work will begin soon to treat catch basins and CRAHD's vendor will coordinate with local police departments.

- Landfill Capping Project – With the Council’s concurrence, the Town is moving forward with Louriero Engineering to cap the landfill. We had a coordination meeting to discuss next steps in the first phase of the project – characterization of the landfill in preparation of submitting a permit to the DEEP.

The current level of planning is to have the site assessment and borings completed by mid-June and a report back to the Town by the end of June. The results of the site assessment would drive the decision-making process to continue forward will capping the landfill by bringing in soil as outlined at the Council meeting. The DEEP permitting process could take a little longer than anticipated based on the speed by which some other communities have had their permits acted upon.

- Commerce/Leffingwell Historic Grant – The Request for Proposals for Architectural Services that will help document the buildings in the Commerce Street/Leffingwell Road area was approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO approval is needed prior to advertising the RFP. The RFP will be issued shortly to identify a firm or individual that will work with the Town on this project.
- Fish Ladder Grant – The Town received good news from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), who officially awarded our grant to design a fish ladder to connect migratory fish from Long Island Sound to the pond and waterways near the Indian River Shops. There are endangered fish in the Clinton area that seek freshwater for spawning. The fish ladder will facilitate inland (and uphill) access to freshwater.
- Dock Master Vacancy – The Town’s former Dock Master resigned and in the interim the Harbor Management Commission has been providing a degree of oversight at the Town Dock. The part-time position will be advertised to see if a qualified applicant is interested in the post. Harbor Management will assist in reviewing applications and interviews in advance of a hiring decision.
- Harbor Technology Improvement – In additional Town Dock news, we are in the process of bringing online a system to allow for card payments in lieu of cash payments for people using the launch. The technology should help with accounting controls and provide an additional level of service for users looking to pay with a card (instead of hunting down an ATM for a cash payment).
- FEMA Recovery Coordination – Quite some time ago I reported that FEMA was taking on a role to help Connecticut communities with their long-term recovery. The FEMA role was not necessarily to make grant awards, but rather to serve as a “match-maker” for potential programs or agencies that could assist in important projects. I recently had a follow-up meeting with FEMA staff for a status report on our projects and their process.

FEMA will be providing a resource guide to map out agencies and sources of competitive funding which could assist in moving a project forward. They also intend to provide additional educational support (webinar) to aid municipalities in using the guide and positioning potential projects.

The projects that were submitted had to fall into certain criteria focused on recovery. The projects that were submitted for Clinton included Clinton Downtown Sanitary Sewer System (under economic development), Clinton Coastal Sanitary Sewer System (under coastal resiliency), Menunkatesuk River Flood Remediation (technical assistance - specifically to respond to flood risk from inland, private dams), and the landfill (economic development). During our discussion, it was agreed that the landfill could be dropped as the Town has found a different solution to dealing with the site. There should be more to come as FEMA finalizes their guidance to municipalities.