

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: October 5, 2022

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

1. Council Business:

- Charter Revision Commission – The Charter Revision continues to work through the Town Council's recommendations and comments received during the public hearing. At present, draft language was submitted to the Town Attorney for review and amendment as needed. The Commission will re-convene to discuss the draft Charter amendments following input from the Town Attorney. The Commission remains on track.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments met on September 28, 2022. The new State Emergency Management Coordinator for the region was introduced. Additional highlights from the meeting included:

- Regional Election Monitor Report – No Excuse absentee voting is still authorized in the State under one of the remaining Executive Orders issued by the Governor. It was also noted that most towns are struggling with getting and retaining poll workers.
- Transportation Funding – It was reported that a future meeting will have to increase transportation funding for the previously approved Clinton sidewalk project. The cost of the project has grown significantly since the grant was awarded in 2019. Costs started to creep up with land acquisition by the DOT to secure enough right-of-way to install a sidewalk. Costs have continued to grow with inflationary pressures since 2019 and higher standards from the DOT for pedestrian features.
- Legislative Agenda – The COG will be working on legislative proposals of interest to the region which should be separate and distinct from proposals being advanced by CCM and COST.
- Economic Development Strategy – The COG is working on a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. The RiverCOG region is the only part of the State without a CEDS which can open the door to federal Economic Development Administration funding for projects. Stakeholder meetings have been held and regional economic development data is under review. Public outreach for the CEDS will be held October 12 and 13.

3. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM):

The CCM Legislative Committee met on September 27. At this point, CCM is assembling its legislative proposals for the upcoming State legislative session. Bill concepts are being discussed and will, at a future meeting, be prioritized.

It was also reported that CCM is working with the engineering firm of Fuss & O'Neill on a flooding study with the intent of identifying types of flooding, causes and barriers to change that prevent remediation projects from advancing. This study will take some time to roll out and collect information on a state-wide basis. The scope of the study is not oriented toward coastal flooding. The primary focus is the inland incidence of flooding.

4. Miscellaneous:

- Fish Ladder Project – The Town was recently successful in securing grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to design a fish ladder passage. The awarded funds were to pay for the engineering costs associated with the design of a fish ladder. This would then position the Town for another NFWF grant to fund the actual construction. Maintenance of the fishway would be performed by DEEP who would regulate and monitor the ladder for migratory fish.

The Town's grant consultant for this project will be issuing a Request for Proposals from engineering firms to design the project. The selection process will carry on into October.

- ARPA for Businesses – When the Council (and eventually the Town Meeting) approved the initial ARPA spending plan, it included financial support for small businesses. The program and application have been put in place. Initial applications have started to come in and be processed for payment.
- Public Works Hiring – Interviews were conducted to fill a Truck Driver vacancy in Public Works. I anticipate having a candidate for council concurrence at the meeting.