

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: June 2, 2021

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

**1. CCM:**

CCM will hold its next Legislative Committee meeting on June 15, 2021.

**2. River COG:**

The Council of Governments met virtually on May 26, 2021. Highlights of the meeting include:

- UConn Stormwater Corps – A team from UConn presented to the COG their Stormwater Corps program. The program helps UConn students gain experience in stormwater management and aids municipalities in identifying opportunities and best practices to manage stormwater with the students. Of note this summer, the Stormwater Corps program will focus on a watershed that includes Clinton and some other River COG towns. Under the Town's stormwater permit from the DEEP, we will have an obligation to reduce impervious surfaces that directly drain stormwater. The UConn program is a way to get some free consulting to identify potential projects and a source of funding to finance one small project. I expressed Clinton's interest in the program to get both the consulting and project funding for their summer program. There will be a fall program round too but it will not have funding to pay for a project.
- Federal Delegation Report – Staff for the region's congressional delegation and Senators spoke to the rule making process for the American Recovery Plan Act that the Department of Treasury is managing. Final rules on these federal funds are anticipated after July 15, 2021. Additionally, the described the process for "member directed funding requests" or earmarks that Senators and Representatives can request. While earmarks bring a return to a source of federal funding, the process to reconcile the House and Senate and available funding appear to be challenging. Further, the earmark does not represent 100% federal funding. A local match of non-federal funds is requested.
- Regional ARPA Discussion – The meeting included a continued discussion around potential regional uses of ARPA funding that each town will be receiving. A set aside was suggested that could support a regional project or to work through a regional entity to accomplish a specific project. The discussion also included a report on non-profit entities that are struggling in providing mental health support and social works to meet the needs of some of the public.

- Regional Plan of Conservation and Development – The COG is receiving public comment on the regional POCD. Comments can be submitted electronically through June 30. The COG website has a form which can be used to submit feedback to the draft plan.
- Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan – FEMA has approved the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the region and all of the annexes for each town. The next step will be for each town to endorse their specific annex. I will bring a resolution to the Town Council approving the Clinton Annex to finalize our part of the plan. You may recall that the plan is a necessary tool to continue securing FEMA funding and it opens the door to certain sources of funding that would support mitigation or remediation projects.

### **3. Miscellaneous:**

- American Recovery Plan Act – The American Recovery Plan Act or ARPA is the single largest direct funding to local governments from the federal government in decades. Since this type of funding does not happen frequently, there have been more questions than answers and piles of rules to read through to understand how the funding can work at the local level. I have been reading through interim rules issued by Treasury, other available guidance and suggestions, and webinars hosted by the National League of Cities, CCM and ICMA. I am in the process of putting together a presentation for the Council to discuss these funds and some potential uses. The last set of guidance which pertains to towns like Clinton will be in early June, so I would aim for the second meeting in June to go over the program.
- NFWF Fish Ladder Grant – Our grant for support the planning of a fish ladder behind the Old Morgan/new Shops at Indian River was sent on May 27, 2021.
- Façade Program - With the completion of grant contracts with the State, I have been working with the EDC to prepare for the roll out of the downtown façade program. Program guidelines and an application form have been finalized. An outreach process has been established with the EDC which would involve direct outreach to businesses in the priority area (between John Street and the Indian River) as well as general press announcements and letters.