

TOWN MANAGER



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Manager's Report

By Brian Palaia, Town Manager

Dear Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to share an update on some events happening in Town.

Capital Projects

The Town received a \$165,000 paving grant to reconstruct 500' of Everest Road. The Town is accepting proposals for engineering work and plans to make a contract award for design work in July.

The Vermont Agency on Transportation (VTrans) is mapping the existing conditions for the Route 7/ Railroad Street/Middle Road intersection redesign and will provide an update for the Selectboard in July.

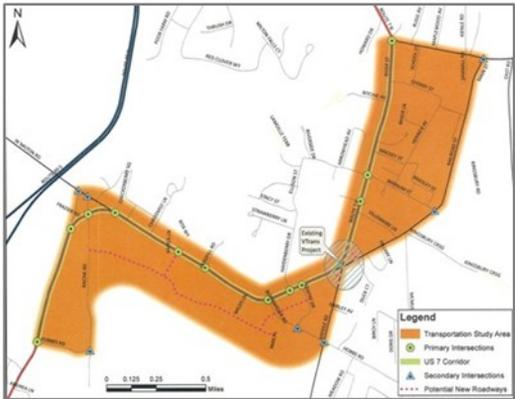
The Town is working on two sidewalk expansion projects: 1) McMullen Road between Hobbs Road and Railroad Street and 2) a portion of Cherry Street to Railroad Street. The Town entered into an agreement with the railroad to have them begin design review for the portion of the Cherry Street sidewalk that is within their right of way.

The Town submitted a grant application to VTrans for a scoping study which is the first step to obtaining future grants to fund the Railroad Street Sidewalk Rail Crossing Project.

The Town experienced a dramatic slope failure this spring that was threatening Beebe Hill Road and other private property. The Town was able to obtain a \$160,000 grant from VTrans to pay for permanent stabilization. The Town hired a contractor and the work is substantially complete.



Resurfacing of the tennis courts is complete and the courts have been improved with new backboards, nets, poles, benches, and lines for Pickleball and 10 and Under Tennis. The contractor recommended that the Town plan to resurface them every four to six years. Plans have progressed to add a clearly defined pathway to Tennis Court park and add a shade structure, port-o-let screening, and other amenities to both parks. Thank you to the volunteers who assisted the Public Works department on Saturday, June 21 clearing undergrowth from the natural areas between the two parks.



Town staff met with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission this month to finalize the work plan for the Commission's update to the Route 7 Corridor study from Forbes Road to Main Street. The study will take about a year to complete. The study will integrate the various local plans for improvements the Town has assembled over the past 15 years and make recommendations to support economic development, storm water improvements, signalization, and other infrastructure. It will also include a traffic analysis for the possibility of an exit 17A. The plan will have a 20 year outlook.

The Town continues work on an assessment for a new public works and recreation facility. This phase of the project will identify how fields could best be relocated to accommodate the new facility, what a new public works facility would cost, and how other municipal building space that is freed up can best be used in the future. A draft report should be available by mid July.

Eagle Scouts and other volunteers built a new bridge between Bombardier and Tennis Court parks. Hand rails will be added to the bridge.

The Town accepted bids this week to replace a zero turn mower and the tractor that handles mowing for the park fields. Bid awards are expected at the next Selectboard meeting.

Department Updates

Finance

The Town's Finance Department and Town Attorney are preparing several properties for a tax sale next month. Notice of the tax sale will appear in the Milton Independent. The Finance Department recently collected delinquent taxes on some mobile homes through small claims court.

The Board of Abatement met this month and approved more tax abatements than originally anticipated. This will have an impact on the Town's General Fund budget.

The Town is undergoing a fraud risk assessment to strengthen its internal controls and reduce the opportunities for losses to occur.

This week the Town staff began working with the independent auditor, Sullivan & Powers to prepare for



its annual audit.

You can now make your tax or utility payments through the town website at www.miltonvt.org/onlinepayments.

Police

The Milton Police are asking the public for help in catching an armed robber. This armed robbery took place at the Short Stop Mobil on Route 7 in Milton at about 4 am Thursday, June 12, 2014. The robber pointed a gun at the clerk and demanded cash, and then took off on foot headed north. The suspect is described as a white male of average size in his 20s or 30s. He was wearing a blue, hooded rain jacket and a black facemask. Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to call the Milton Police Department at 893-6171.

Public Works

Public Works is continuing maintenance on gravel roads, pothole patching, leak detection in the water system, field maintenance, and roadside mowing. The department is continuing to follow up on punch list items from this spring's paving work.

Planning & Economic Development

The Selectboard held a public hearing on zoning ordinance amendments this month. The Selectboard will continue to review these amendments at a future meeting and may schedule an additional hearing. The Planning Commission is continuing work on additional ordinance amendments that will be proposed this fall. The Development Review Board is moderately busy with new applications and permit activity is slightly higher so far than last year.

Planning home improvements? Installing a shed or deck? Summer is a great time to tackle projects, but keep in mind that some projects require a zoning permit. If you're unsure about permitting requirements, check out Planning's *Frequently Asked Questions* at www.miltonvt.org/departments/planning/faq.

We're here to help you do it right, so you and your neighbors can protect your real estate investment. You can also reach us by phone at 893-1186.

Milton agreed to be a sponsor for a grant application on behalf of Champlain Housing Trust to secure funding for low interest loans for housing repairs to low to moderate income families. The grant award was announced this month in the amount of \$875,000. Please contact Champlain Housing Trust at 802-862-6244 or visit www.getahome.org/loans for more information.

Board and Commission Positions and Vacancies

The Town is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Conservation Commission --one 4-year term beginning July 1, 2014
- Conservation Commission -- two terms to expire June 30, 2017 & 2018
- Planning Commission -- one 4-year term beginning 7/1/2014



Download an application for positions at www.miltonvt.org/images/pdf/files/apps/Comm-BoardApp.pdf

You can turn in your application to the Town Manager's Office by mail at 43 Bombardier Road or by email to ajanda@town.milton.vt.us.

Thank you to all those who applied to be re-appointed for your interest in continuing to serve.

Upcoming Meetings

(Meetings subject to cancellation or change)

- Selectboard – July 7 & 21 at 6 pm
- Development Review Board – July 10 & July 24 at 7 pm
- Recreation Commission – July 10 at 6 pm
- Planning Commission – July 15 at 7 pm
- Economic Development Commission – July 9 at 8 am

