

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 issued a request for proposals last month for solar net metering at Town facilities and a community solar park at the former landfill. Several firms have expressed an interest and responses are due this month.

Aldrich & Elliott engineers will be finishing up some design work for the reconstruction of a 500' portion of Everest Road. This will go out to bid this month. The Town has also issued a bid for a small amount of resurfacing on a portion of Railroad Street and Main Street.

The Town was awarded a Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant to do a scoping study to fill in the sidewalk gap on Railroad Street. The scoping study is a prerequisite to obtaining other state and federal grant funding to pay for construction of the sidewalk gap.

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. Both projects are mostly funded through VTrans. The Town has submitted its proposed easements and plans for VTrans review for the McMullen Road sidewalk project and is awaiting their approval to go forward. We had hoped this project could be built this fall. The Town's design engineer is continuing to work with the Railroad's engineer on the Cherry Street sidewalk project.

The Town applied for a Park & Ride Grant to formalize a paved area behind the Municipal Complex that is currently being used by bus riders. Green Mountain Power has offered to pay for a Level 2 charging station for electric vehicles to be installed there. They have also agreed to pay for 50% of the installation costs. The grant would pay for surfacing, signage, lighting, and the remainder of the installation cost. Electric car users could pay at the charger to charge their vehicles.

The Selectboard authorized a bid award to replace a compact tractor for park mowing. A second dump truck is currently being built and should be delivered in late September. This truck is being added to the fleet as a back-up truck. If an additional driver is budgeted in the future then we may add an additional plow route. A 7 yard dump truck was ordered to replace an existing 7 yard dump truck.

The Town is working on a grant application to fund 50% of the cost of a dog park. The balance would be paid by fundraising and the ½ cent Recreation tax the voters approved in 2013.



Town representatives and staff met with the Vermont Agency on Transportation Secretary last week regarding VTran's decision to only construct the northern hourglass. The Secretary recognized that the full hourglass offers greater benefits for traffic operations and economic development and committed to reviewing the decision.

The Town's Preferred Full Hour Glass Solution



VTrans Northern Hourglass Solution



The Town is continuing work on an assessment for a new public works and recreation facility. A preliminary report with information on space programming, layout, and cost estimates will be made to the Selectboard this month. The Recreation Commission is continuing to gather feedback on the space programming at their events.

The Town will be adding some amenities to their parks this month. A shade structure will be added to the Tennis Court park as well as a path to the playground and screening around the port-o-let. Additional swing sets will be added to the Bombardier side of the park. An additional grill (donated) will be added to the pavilion area. The Tennis Court park sign will be replaced with a new sign. Plans are also being made to refresh the look of the "Block House" in Bombardier Park.

Department Updates



Finance

The Town's annual independent audit is underway. You can make tax or utility payments at www.miltonvt.org/onlinepayments.html.

Police

On the night of August 11th, 2014 someone cut a hole in the fence that separates Ed Robinson's quarry and interstate 89. The suspect (s) drove a vehicle through the fence and down into the quarry. Once at the quarry they stole 24 "31 series" truck batteries valued at \$150-\$200 each from vehicles and equipment. Anyone with information is asked to call the Milton Police Department at 893-2424.

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 beginning to haul in sand to prepare for winter operations. The department finished transitioning to their new replacement radios, which were paid for with 90% grant funding. The department will be following up this month on punch list work along the roads that were resurfaced this past spring. The department will be working on the park improvements mentioned earlier. The State bid contract price for salt for this winter has gone up from \$58 per ton to \$72 per ton, which will make managing our budget for winter operations challenging.

If you see a problem or area that needs service you may request service online at <http://request.miltonvt.org/request.html> or you can call 893-6030 between 8 am and 5 pm.

Planning & Economic Development

The Selectboard approved changes to the Zoning Ordinance in conformance with the 2013 Comprehensive Plan. The appeal period has passed and those regulations have now gone into effect. The Planning Commission is working on a second round of ordinance updates that will be presented to the Selectboard for consideration this fall. The Development Review Board is finalizing approval of the relocation of Bove's manufacturing facility to the Catamount Industrial Park. This is a great win for the community and for this Tax Increment Financing District.

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

Low-interest home improvement loans are now available through Champlain Housing Trust: 802-862-6244 or www.getahome.org/loans.

Recreation

The Town will be participating in the 8th Annual Milton Activities Event on September 9 at the Milton Elementary/Middle School from 6 – 8pm.

A Haunted Forest program is being planned for Saturday, October 18 at Bombardier Park.

The Town will host a Park Improvements Celebration to showcase repairs, and improvements made to Bombardier Park in the past year, on Saturday October 11 at 10am prior to the Fire Department's Open House, which starts at 11am.

The Department's Fall/Winter Program Guide is out, please check it out at www.miltonvt.org/recreation.

National Night Out

Thank you to all the organizations and volunteers who helped make this year's National Night Out another great community event.



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
- Community Champion Awards Committee – three 1--year terms

You can download an application for these positions at <http://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 Drive or by email to ajanda@town.milton.vt.us.



Upcoming Meetings

(Meetings subject to cancellation or change)

- Selectboard – September 8th and September 22nd at 6 pm
- Development Review Board – September 11 & September 25 at 7 pm
- Recreation Commission – September 10 at 6 pm
- Planning Commission – September 4th and September 16th at 7 pm
- Economic Development Commission – September 10th at 8 am

