**Town Manager Update**

*June 7, 2021*

The most urgent project remains the asbestos removal, which is preliminary to other renovation work, including updating the phones and IT, since the lines run through the attic. Relocating Town Hall offices is a logistical challenge. I walked through the bank building next door with Bob Bishop and found it more suitable than I expected, having room for as many as five accessible offices, which would include the Town Treasurer, Town Clerk, Town Collector, and Assessors, and their assistants. Two accessible offices are available for confidential business. The bank building would also be very useful in terms of relocating our computers, according to our IT consultant, due to its proximity.

In further news about Highway Department street priorities, as I mentioned last week, the four highest-priority roads are Orchard Street, at $300,000; Crane Street, at $80,000; Chamberlin Avenue, at $35,000; and Pleasant Street, at $291,000. These total $706,000. There are sixteen roads at the next highest level of priority: Hemlock Hill Road; Anthony Road; East Street; Kirchner Road; a portion of road off Prospect Street; Gulf Road; John Street; Fox Road; Chalet Road; Washington Mountain Road; Pinecrest Drive; Westview Drive; Fredrick Drive; Whippoorwill Lane; Sleepy Hollow Drive; and Dalton Division Road. Dalton Division Road is of course on the state Transportation Improvement Program, though I understand construction is now slated for 2026. I am developing a request for quotes for the engineering on that project. There had been a qualifications-based “request for qualifications” developed, but I believe we’ll be able to get good engineering for substantially less money using the request for quotes process.

I have reached a clearer understanding of the sewer situation 450 and 475 Housatonic Street and am working with the Highway Superintendent to discover exactly where a break in the Town sewer main might be. I will keep you informed about the progress on that, as an imminent real estate transaction hinges on proper utilities in the area.

I have written Town Counsel to have them start proceeding with the sale of the View Street property. When we are ready to move forward, we can discuss the terms.

In hiring news, I plan to interview candidates for the Town Planner position this week, together with Andy Perenik for the Planning Board and John Boyle representing the DRA and the DDIC. We have a few candidates for the Assistant position as well who I hope to interview next week.

For the Citizens’ Energy solar proposal, we will be able to meet on the Town side June 22 to sort through our options. Then we can give the Citizens’ Energy representative a call and set negotiations in motion.

I had a very productive meeting with the CRA and our Building Superintendent regarding the Town bathrooms in the parks. We have tightened up key use procedures and accountability and I believe all parties are satisfied with the arrangements.