

Eliot Town Manager Report April 18, 2024

Submitted by
Michael J. Sullivan to the Eliot Selectboard

Honorable Select Board, this is an abridged accounting of some of the projects and issues I and the dedicated municipal staff have been working on lately for the benefit of the Town of Eliot and its citizens.

Transfer Station Update.



Wednesday April 17, Kathryn Oak from ecomaine visited the Eliot Transfer Station (ETS) to review the operation. PW Manager Norm Albert, PW Administrative Assistant and I were also present for the review.

Ms. Oak has a very unique perspective as her work with ecomaine causes her to visit numerous transfer station operations throughout Maine. The review covered about two hours of operation.

There were no backups on to 236 (with the exception of six vehicles in line prior to opening. The PW Manager randomly timed visits from arrival to exit was less

than four minutes. There was at least one commercial vehicle turned away that I observed.

Ms. Oak has agreed to send a memo with her observations of the operation and opinion about single stream versus the present system. Kathryn was impressed with the operation, the efficiency, the organization, and the cleanliness all are a credit to the staff.

It goes without saying the level of service is commensurate with the staffing and the associated cost. This will continue to be something we must consider as costs increase, and recycling revenues decrease. The good news is there are anecdotal early signs that suggest revenues collected are already improving with the new system. We will suspend any recommendations in regard to entering into a 'single stream' recycling program until we receive Ms. Oak's observation and opinion.

Presently the normal rate at the ETS is about 55 to 60 cars per hour based on random in-person observations by various parties. Peak times are running at about 85 visitors an hour (usually 10-11 AM) and slow times 30 (Saturday 8-9 AM). We will continue to refine the data going forward.

On Saturday April 13 there was an accident caused by driver error or mechanical issues with the truck. One employee was injured when trying to avoid the truck backing up.

The operator asserted that the gas pedal stuck or something to that effect to a TS employee. The Eliot Police Department was called to the scene to address the situation and log a report. A tow truck was

called to have the truck removed from the barrier. The injured employee has returned to work after being cleared by the employee's doctor with minor restrictions which will be accommodated.

South Berwick/Eliot/MSAD35 Monthly Meeting.

Recently we hosted the monthly Town/Gown meeting in Eliot Town Hall. There was a minor change of the budget bringing the total MSAD (including adult ed) to \$11,463,621 or a 4.6% increase slightly higher, but similar to the General Fund (Town) budget increase (4.3%).

The same costs centers are challenging the district and like the municipality we continue to look for savings and innovative means of delivering services. Health Insurance and compensation challenges both, the schools also have the growing cost of individual education plans (IEP). These plans can easily exceed \$150K when mandated and implemented for students with different learning styles.

Earth Day Eliot.

I would like to thank Christina Towers and the Eliot/So Berwick Girls Scout Troop for returning this year to address the accumulated debris at the Boat Basin Beach. We cannot describe how much we appreciate their efforts!



ELIOT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Join us! Saturday, April 20th, 9am-12pm
for a Stewardship Work Day at the Town
Forest, in celebration of Earth Day**

The ECC is excited to partner with the Great Works Regional Land Trust and Sierra Club Maine Chapter for our next cleanup event. Join us as we hit the trails of the Eliot Town Forest which abuts Great Works' Rocky Hills Preserve, to make trail improvements, including but not limited to removing storm damage and debris, opening up trails, and picking up litter.

Logistics: Meeting at the **Rocky Hills Preserve Trailhead**, up from the parking area at 2 Punkintown Road, South Berwick, ME 03908

Also, the Eliot Conservation Commission has partnered with Great Works Land Trust to host a trail clean up on April 20th (see <https://gwrlt.org/event/earthday2024/> for more details). Both ECC and GWLT should be commended for their efforts to bring more awareness to these precious resources and work to make them more accessible to citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

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Town of Eliot, Manager