

Eliot Town Manager Report

April 26, 2023

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.

Consolidated Communications.

We are hopeful that we are dangerously close to completing the installation of the new phone system in Town Hall, Public Works and Police Department. As you may be aware this project was agreed to October 2018. To say this has been a slow roll would be credible, to say the least.

The installation has caused a great deal of anxiety, frustration and confusion amongst staff. As a voice over IP system, it will “eventually” provide a number of enhancements for serving the public. Due to the fact it is an internet-based telecommunications system there also were significant interruptions in email and other functions reliant on the internet. We apologize for any missed or dropped calls or emails over the last couple of weeks it was a trying time.

We will be having a training mid-May which will hopefully allow us to exercise all the gremlins out of the system and learn more about the tools we may utilize.

Water and Sewer Extension Project.



The work has begun on the Water and Sewer Extension Project. Most of the work being performed presently is on Beech Road and State Road as Defelice the contractor on the project is presently drilling test holes to make a ledge determination for the area. As most residents know there is a ton of rock looming just below the surface, some outcroppings not even below the surface.

Anyone can get regular updates by send and email request to rt236project@eliotme.org or going to the following link

<https://www.eliotmaine.org/home/news/eliot-water-sewer-extension-project-public-information>

I will also try to add information in my Town Manager Reports as often as possible. We also will hold some public sessions as the project progresses. The OPM has been taking on much of the oversight as Town Hall simply does not have the capacity or the expertise for that function. Thank you for your collective patience as it will be a “Detour Summer”.

I will continue to attend weekly meetings with the OPM for a in-depth overview of project progress

Performance Based Evaluations.

As the end of the fiscal year nears, I have begun, a little late, to review the PBE's of a number of employees and managers where appropriate have started the second of the Bi-annual review of their staff.

These evaluations are intended to ensure managers meet with all employees to specifically discuss projects and progress and build employee morale. It is really amazing to me as Town Manager just how many initiatives and projects have been completed, rolling along or still being planned by departments and employees.

Managing the water and sewer extension project, new software, new phones (whether we want them or not), automating payroll, developing new approaches to services we provide, the list is long to say the least. I am very lucky to work with such a skilled team of professionals.

Murray-Rowe Park Clean-up.

I would like to thank the extra effort applied by the Public Works under the direction of Foreman Jim Roy and our consultant Norm Albert. I realize that the more cynical will say "Well that is their job" and to some extent that is true. However, bringing focus and extra effort is laudable, this is one of those cases.

We are hoping softball, baseball and soccer will be able to return for 2023, but there is more investment needed. That investment will need to be comprised of seat equity and funding. Murray Rowe needs to become another gem in the park system in Eliot. This focus should not be at the cost of Frost Tufts, Boat Basin or Hammond Park. The directive is to make sure we are paying attention and advocating for investment in the public parks of Eliot.

Thank you to the Eliot/South Berwick/Berwick Girl Scout Troop for their Earth Day clean-up efforts at the Boat Basin recently. You definitely deserve a badge!

Respectfully submitted

Michael J. Sullivan
Town of Eliot, Manager