

Eliot Town Manager Report

September 21, 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.



Eliot Festival Days.

It is really incredible the time and effort so many citizens have put towards the annual Eliot Festival Days. Kathy Runey, Dana Norton, Gene Wypyski and so many others too numerous to mention make this festival work. Without their efforts it simply would not happen.

The effects of Eliot Festival Day have maybe somewhat underestimated on the community. This event allows citizen interaction in a vital way, in this post COVID (supposedly, hopefully) world we need more connectivity than ever. This communal interaction is critical to the long and short-term social and cultural health of any town.

On Friday September 29th we encourage everyone to stop down at the Boat Basin and enjoy the annual Legion Post 188 "Chili Festival (6PM) there will be a car show, food and fun until 9PM, as everyone needs to get home and rest up because the big day is to follow. It starts with an army of volunteers (although they always could use more troops) arriving before 7AM setting up for the Road Race which is set to start at 8:30 AM. There will be a flag raising at the Fire Station just prior to the race (8:15). I wish I could run it, but I do not want it to impact my future in major league sports career, and it would not be fair to others.

The day is packed with music, food, games, and activities. There will be booths, a Farmers, Market.....donut eating contest for kids.....pie eating contest for adults.....does life get any better? Thanks again to everyone who works to make this celebration happen.

Water and Sewer Extension Project.

As this construction season comes to a close, we are all anxious to see an end to the bumps and lumps along State Road, Beech Road and particularly Harold L. Dow Highway. All reasonable people must

understand the enormity of this project which was voted on by the residents and will be of great value to many once completed, in one manner or another.

The good news is all three roads must be returned to the pre-construction condition (or better) by October 15th. The lateral patches allow testing of the pressurized pipes primarily along State and Beech, that part of the process is complete, and paving will begin shortly (September 25).

As an aside I recently had a meeting in my office with the Chair of AIP Ellen Ceppetelli and the Maine AARP Director Noel Bonam about our progress and the wonderful municipal relationship and how it allows Eliot to become a truly “age friendly community”. Mr. Bonam used a mapping app to bring him to Eliot Town Hall, of course it instructed him to use Beech Road. As we all know Beech Road is under construction in Eliot. We can all relate to being in a new town, late for a meeting and a meeting where you will meet new people, it can bring on anxiety. However, the flagger gave him new directions and to relieve his anxiety handed him a Twix bar with a smile. That was all it took for Noel to declare Eliot the greatest town ever! It sometimes is the little things.

We greatly appreciate the patience of so many and understand the frustration of others. We all travel on these streets, but nobody will be happier to roll along new macadam than those who were directed to make the project happen by the voters. Stay safe.

Community Service Department.

Recently, I met with the CSD Director Heather Roy, as some are aware there has been a substantial change in staffing at a critical time in their calendar. It is always difficult when CSD programs change seasons, but this year it is acerbated by the staffing adjustments.

Staffing shortages go way beyond the loss of service and often can have a detrimental effect on a manager’s “enthusiasm”, that is not the case here, Director Roy is very happy to add Meg Roche to her staff as CSD Program Coordinator, she is bring a new perspective to programing and a nice peek in to what the possibilities may be in the future. Ms. Roche has already started working with Aging In Place and there will be several bus trips and other activities scheduled for later this fall.

Everyone from the CSD Director to the AIP Committee to the Town Manager is extremely excited about the renewed effort by CSD to recover from program “COVID” which every community has suffered from over the last couple of years. On the “COVID” upside we are better able now to allow remote participation in some programing due to what we learned during that period. It would be hard to take a bus tour via Zoom, I admit:)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town of Eliot, Manager