

Eliot Town Manager Report

September 7, 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.



Town Website Rebuild.

I have recently reached out to various parties who are known to have some great pix of life in Eliot. The pictures will be used for the website rebuild. I appreciate Sturgeon Creek farm for steering us towards this beautiful creature.

Anyone who has a picture or pictures who they feel capture life in Eliot well and willing to “donate” (without credit or compensation), please send a file to me at msullivan@eliotme.org.

The web builder asks that we avoid specific themed photos (i.e., Thanksgiving Halloween, etc.), photos where the person is easily recognizable or that explicitly advertise a business.

You or anyone you know would provide us with a great service and help with costs by sending in photos to consider for the new site.

We will be working on transferring content from the present site, this also will include the normal refresh decluttering of material. This is also the time to suggest features you would consider important to consider, so if you go you another municipal website, see a feature you like, please send me the site and the particular feature. No buts about it, we want this to be a great website that Eliot will be proud of!



Boat Basin.

The season of observation is drawing to a close at the Boat Basin. There are a number of needs which have become clear as Chief Moya has increased the Police Departments involvement at the Boat Basin, I greatly appreciate the Police Department effort in that regard.

In July 2022 the Town of Eliot collected \$5,644, this year \$6,836. The increase is likely due to a change in the enforcement model. We also saw over a \$3,000 increase in collections for August 2023 over 2022. Thank you to Chief Moya and ‘Harbormaster’ Dries and the entire Eliot PD for their efforts to get this program on track.

We hope we are able to have a more robust plan in place for next season which will work to maximize the revenues and look towards making some amenities improvements and safety upgrades at the Basin. It is such a local gem we need to get more out of it.

Town Meeting Warrant for November Election.

I am happy to report that both the Eliot Select Board and the Budget Committee supported unanimously the community investment contained in articles one through ten which will appear on the November 7th Referendum Warrant Ballot.

Each governmental body asked relevant and important questions throughout each meeting which addressed the articles. I apologize to the Budget Committee for the short notice in requesting their recommendations and appreciate their accommodating the need for an additional meeting on the articles.

These articles and information about each will be up on the town website later next week or if anyone would like to discuss them I encourage they give me a call (451-1205) or email me msullivan@eliotme.org and I will do my best to answer your questions.

These appropriations will have no effect on property tax bills, all of the funding is coming from revenues already collected and are deemed “unassigned”. The funding if approved by the voters will make investment in Murray Rowe Park, Town Hall, the Fire Department, Police Department and satisfy other fiscal needs. I greatly appreciate all these community leaders supporting and recognizing the need to invest in Eliot!

Comcast Cable Access Channel Project.

After a summer hiatus the access channel seems to be getting back on track in earnest. Next week we will have fiber installed directly into the Town Hall and the Select Board will be considering a proposal from a PEG specialist to oversee the technology installation and the start up.

It should be noted that none of the costs associated with this project are from taxation. The entire project is funded through a grant from Comcast and is supported by the 1,854 homes in Eliot who subscribe with Comcast Cable.

This will provide another point of communication with the public and we look forward to exploring the various opportunities, such as billboardings events on the continuous feed, having a more dependable transmission and the capacity to deliver important recorded content to a good portion of Eliot.

We will continue to use Town Hal Streaming, as there is a growing community of residents who opt out of cable. We also will still have recorded meetings on our website. Thank you for your patience.

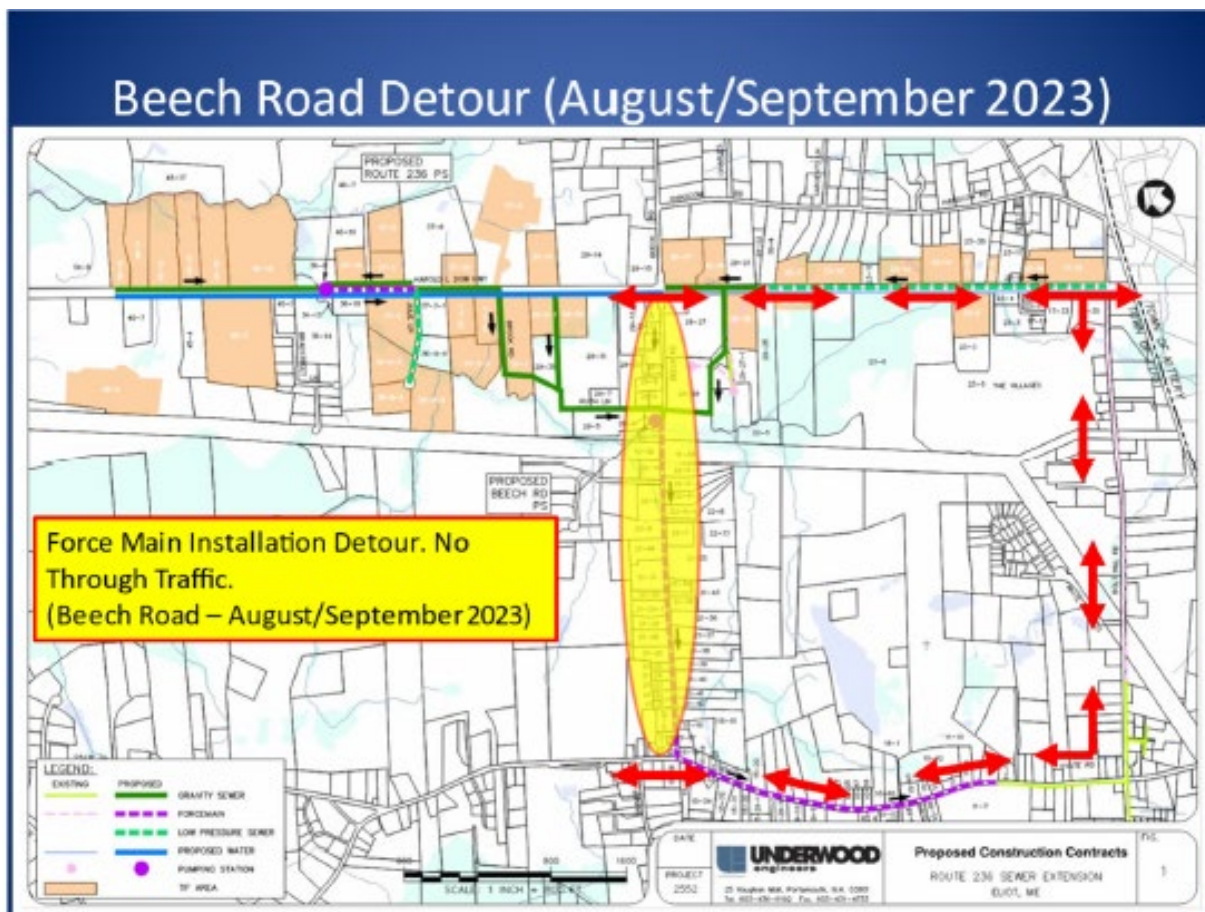
Water and Sewer Project.

Progress continues to be made on this massive project, It clearly is the largest singular infrastructure project in Eliots history. Twenty-two million, 100's of homes and businesses affected, along with anyone who owns a car.

We continue to look forward to the October 15 mandated paving date when the roads will be returned to standard, and the project will be "construction" dormant (outside of Town Hall) until spring 2024. To be honest the rest of the project will not pose nearly the challenges to the public ways as this year's portion. The balance of the work will be cross country connections of the roadways and pump station construction.

This week's work was marred when a pipe from a private system was breached by a backhoe. The pipe which was breached was not where it was reported to be and did not have the appropriate wrapping required for identifying subterranean utilities.

The contractor and the managing engineer to all the right steps when the breach occurred, including self-reporting to the Maine DEP, calling in a specialist to mitigate any environmental damage. It happens, unfortunately.



We continue to encourage drivers to avoid any of the construction areas and seek alternate routes.

Thursday September 21 Election Training.

Just a reminder the Town Clerk's office will be closed to allow all staff to attend mandatory training in Augusta for the upcoming election. I applaud Clerk Rawski for ensuring her relatively new staff receives the training they need to ensure a fair and open election is afforded the citizens of Eliot.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience. There will still be an on-line service and drop box for various needs. Most of the balance of Town Hall will be available by appointment that day, please call and let us know what we can help with and if we can..... we will.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town of Eliot, Manager