

# Eliot Town Manager Report

April 6, 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.

## **Citizen's Option Meeting.**

The required Citizen's Option was held Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Eliot Elementary School with just over 50 citizens in attendance including all of Select Board and a majority of the Budget Committee members.

The evening allowed attendees to learn more about the preparation and process for preparing the annual budget. While there is a difference of opinion on the FY 24 budget between the two important bodies there seemed to be significant progress made in terms of understanding each other's position.

There was agreement on 17 of the 21 budget warrants the Budget Committee and the Select Board through their Chairs have agreed to meet in joint session in a sincere effort to seek common ground on the balance of the articles held in disagreement. No matter how one feels about those differences or what the final outcome may produce, the voters of Eliot are am sure are thankful for these elected official's diligence in these financial matters.

Please take the time to review the presentation and the video of the proceedings now on the town website. It will aid the balance of voters to make informed decisions on the June warrant.



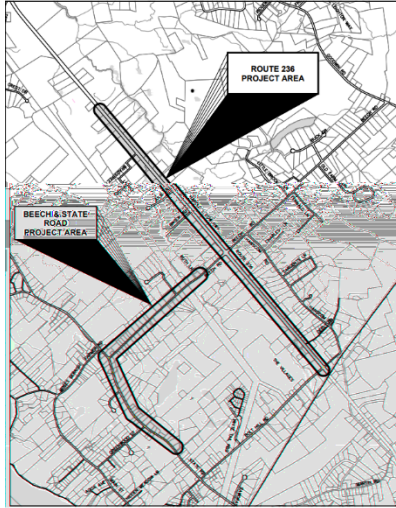
## **Boat Basin.**

The docks are just about ready to be installed and may actually be in place by the time you read this report. This was a Herculean effort by many including, William Cunningham from the Maine DACF, Rick Pollard Independent Boat, Jim Roy, Doug Blaisdell, Austin Mahoney from our own Eliot Public Works.

The turn around on the challenge presented by the failing docks was awe inspiring, replacing and repairing them is a matter of weeks which normally takes a year from production to placement required so many to work as team. I cannot thank those individuals and organizations sufficiently, much appreciated!

We will be rolling out the other changes at the boat basin as the season progresses with a goal of having a more comprehensive and coordinated approach in place by the beginning of the 2024 boating season.

### Route 236 Project.



This evening there will be an informational meeting held at Eliot Town Hall 5:30 PM. Our OPM Kyle Coolidge of Tighe & Bond (Owner's Project Manager), Cole Melendy of Underwood Engineering, Stew McCormack from DeFelice Construction and I will all be in attendance to give an overview and try to answer questions about Phase #1 (Beech Road and State Road) and the project in general.

As we have been suggesting the project would in earnest begin in April, well next week there will be distinct signs the project has started. The material and equipment will begin to be delivered (pipe is already here at Public Works) and the construction trailer will be placed at the property directly across Harold L. Dow Highway from Cumberland Farms (Beech and Dow).

Weekly progress reports placed on the Town website. People who want regular updates or have information sent to them can simply send an email to [rt236@eliotme.org](mailto:rt236@eliotme.org). There will also be a phone for residents to leave a message for the OPM so they can make inquiries, as well.

We have had several questions about what streets will have water the map above delineates the area, but mostly it is State, Beech and Harold Dow, however the system is being built with some capacity for expansion, but first things first.

### Public Works P&C Review.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> the Public Works Foreman and I met with John Waterbury Senior Loss Consultant from our property and casualty Insurance partner MMA Risk Management Services at the Transfer Station, Public Works facilities, Hammond Park Gazebo and the storage barn on Dixon Road. I am happy to say the inspection went better than many I have been on.

Mr. Waterbury pointed out a few opportunities where we could improve safety and improve risk avoidance. We also discussed some grant programs offered to prevent occurrences and some trainings we might consider providing for staff. These are always difficult and rarely deemed "perfect", but overall the level of safety awareness was impressive at the PW. Congratulations to the staff.

We also received news that the Assistant to the Director Jordan Tweedie who recently returned from active duty will be leaving for a position with the feds, she will be sorely missed. I also

have engaged Norman Albert the former retired former Kittery Public Works Director to assist at the Public Works with project management, staff training, coordination of contract work and generally bring a wealth of experience to the department. It is clear we are still trying to regain our balance from the devastating blow from Steve Robinson's passing.

There are presently three key vacant positions and one part-time position at the PW. The remain staff are performing admirably and many of us are trying to fill in other gaps. As difficult as this is, it also gives us an opportunity to reshape the department going forward. Bringing Mr. Albert on part-time at a critical time of the year with his knowledge base allows us to some space to re-build the structure for the long haul.

**Consolidated Communications; "Phones in Town Hall".**

Well I cannot say it has ben easy but the two year wait for new phones in Eliot Town Hall is over, now we just have to learn how to use them fully. There will be a staff training coming up in about 10 days and hopefully we have all the bugs worked out by that point.

Our apologies to anyone who was dropped, blocked or otherwise inconvenienced by the installation of the new phones. We will have some new features to improve service and will roll them out as we have a better handle on the fundamentals of the system. Thank you for you patience.

Respectfully submitted  
Michael J. Sullivan  
Town of Eliot, Manager