

Eliot Town Manager Report

May 10, 2022

Submitted by

Michael J. Sullivan to the Eliot Selectboard



May, Older Americans Month. Thank you to the Aging in Place Committee for bringing this national designation to the attention of the Eliot Select Board and thank you the SB for designating May as Older American Month in town.

The senior population in Eliot is a critical asset to the civic well-being of the community. They serve on every board and committee, they volunteer for non-profits, they are important advocate for various issues. They truly serve Town of Eliot.

We encourage all citizens in Eliot to consider the contributions made by seniors and take extra effort to thank them for their labors.

Property Task Force. The task force recently held it's monthly meeting to discuss distressed properties. We are now working with about a dozen addresses which need a range of approaches from enforcement to assistance. These projects are complex, each comes with unique circumstances and multi-prong solutions. They are costly in respect to staff time on task and other service resources, but vitally necessary to address for the health and safety issues each contains, as well as quality of life for neighbors.

On one property which has been an on-going challenge for years I commend the incredible work of Eliot's GA Director Melissa Albert. In this case because of her efforts, we were able to tap into a statewide program which will supply manpower this upcoming week to address the storage, hoarding and safety concerns. It will give our team a chance to get into the structure to inspect and assess what other challenges exist in this home. We always strive to remember and be respectful this is someone's home, no matter the condition of the property or the residents.

There will be counseling and general assistance wrap around services provided to the occupants in hopes we can be confident they are safe and work towards not having this difficult issue regress.

These property improvement projects are all a team effort and require everyone's engagement to make them better, thank you to Chief Muzzeroll, Chief Moya, Planner Brubaker, GA Director Albert, LUA Metz, Director Robinson and CSW Minot (PD Regional Social Worker Project) for their important contributions to this initiative, it really is a team effort.

Record System Upgrade. King Information has finished up their first phase of addressing record storage in Eliot Town Hall. The system has numerous benefits from a fiscal stand point, as well as significant service model benefits.



The project has a file locator software component, there has a searchable file created which will tell staff where a file would be, which room, rack, shelf all the way to the individual box.

The boxes are designed, unlike commonly used boxes, to reduce costly workplace “lifting” injuries by limiting the amount of file material to 40 pounds of paper, making the handles supported to reduce hand injuries and are the boxes reusable. Needless to say, King put a lot of thought and experience into the box, imagine how attentive to detail the system overall.

Another significant factor beyond safety is how the system will reduce the need for new space

and/or reutilization of space in the present structure or a future space. Expansion savings, reusable card board boxes versus expensive metal filing cabinets, both will yield a significant long-term savings for the town.

There is also a very low-cost maintenance plan as part of the strategy, where the pros will return once a year for a short visit to recalibrate the system and remove retention schedule items from the holdings, perpetuating the and enhancing the ongoing benefit.



These are the type of efforts which control costs and improve service. It is at the heart of the reasoning as to why on occasion there is a need to invest in new ideas, allow managers to manage and keep an open mind to new approaches. To the right is just a small sampling of the boxes and boxes of paper, plastic, old machines and general debris which is no longer needed, functional or beneficial to the operation.

All records set to be destroyed will be done so with necessary approvals from and under State of Maine guidelines. We also found some bound ledgers from the 1800’s which we placed in safer place to preserve that part of Eliot history.

236 Project(s). We all appreciate your collective patients with the multitude of projects you are and will be dealing with along this locally and regionally important throughfare for the balance of 2022 and well into 23.

This past week everyone was surprised to hear that Unitil was opening up 236 road from Beech Road to 505 Harold Dow Hwy to install a new natural gas pipe. The surprise was mostly due to

the fact the Town of Eliot already had a permit from the MEDOT to construct a new sewer line in the right of way (along the shoulder). Yet the gas company was there and already digging.

There were various explanations why these two initiatives would be in conflict, most of which I do not readily understand. I was of the “dig a hole stick two pipes in the ground one for sewer one for gas, call it a day” thinking, well I was told that is not how it works for a long list of reasons.

Due to the quick work of Planner Jeff Brubaker, PW Director Steve Robinson and Project Engineer Cole Melendy we seemed to have averted any substantive impact on our project. There was a flurry of calls to and from MEDOT to correct a misunderstanding related to the two projects, notice given to Unitil about the discrepancy and a meeting scheduled immediately for all parties to attend to work out the details.

It should be noted the cooperation from Unitil was excellent and appreciated. They demonstrated a willingness to be considerate of the Town of Eliot, even though the delay adversely affected their work. Thank you!

The MEDOT resurfacing preparation has started, the sanitary sewer expansion project continues to make progress and will be discussed at the Select Board Meeting May 12th. The clean-up is still scheduled for May 7th and we all are bracing for the necessary and inevitable interruptions to traffic during the upcoming construction season along, adjacent and ancillary to Route 236.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town Manager, Eliot