

Eliot Town Manager Report

June 15, 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 Election.

Congratulations! To all those who had the courage to stand before the voters. I would also give kudos to Bruce Cabot Trott as the newest member of the Eliot Select Board. His experience and deep understanding of Eliot will be put to use in the next few years. Thank you to Richard Donhauser on his re-election to the board.

The Town also voted in two new members to the Budget Committee, Brad Swanson and Jim Latter each of these elected officials have a critical understanding of municipal government and while each town or city has a nuanced difference in its charter and by-laws, Mr. Swanson and Mr. Latter will bring a municipal perspective that will be vital to Eliot's future progress.

The Town Hall staff would like to thank the voters for giving the nod to the Town Hall/Community Center project with ballot question #23 (warrant article #25). This was a significant step towards modernization and expanding usefulness of Town Hall.

We will be back on the November ballot hopefully for a final vote to get the project rolling. This vote will ask the Town to acknowledge the financial aspects of the request. Again, thank you for supporting this need.

All financial ballot questions passed with confidence, much of the sureness from voters I feel came from the Budget Committee and Select Board's willingness to find common ground. The leadership from each body is appreciated.



Road Construction, Water and Sewer Extension and other infrastructure frustrations.

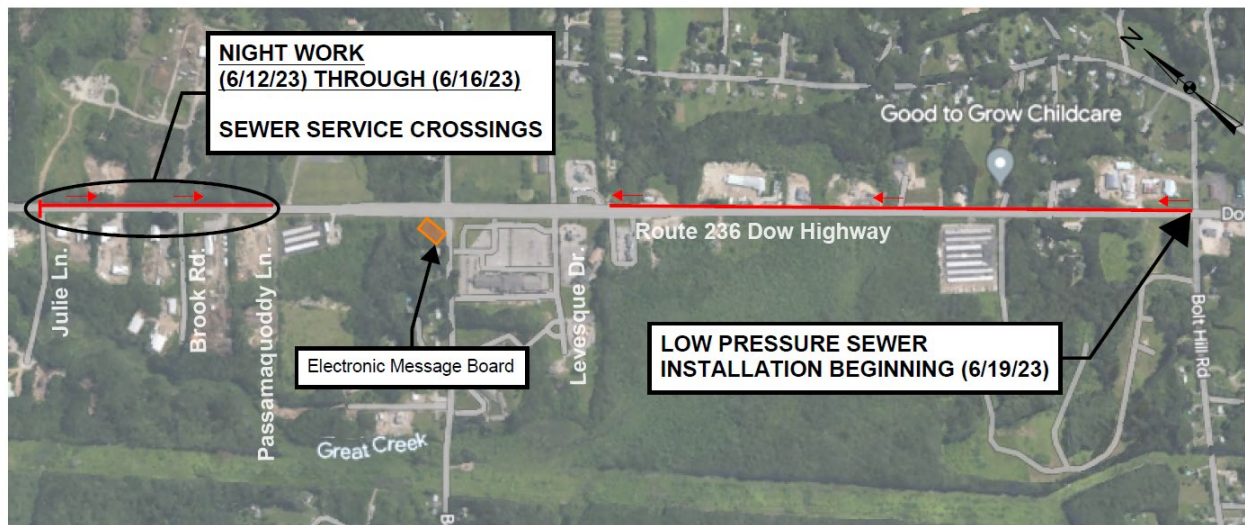
We have been informed by MEDOT a soon as weeks end there will be three more major paving projects in Eliot. These include from Moses Gerrish to the Kittery Line, Goodwin from Dow to the Kittery line and State from Dow to Old Road

This will be in addition to the eight or so the Town of Eliot will be paving and as the Water and Sewer Extension project continues to progress. The contractor is moving at break neck pace averaging about

500 feet of pipe a day, 200 feet more than expected at the start of the project. There is more information on the town website at <https://www.eliotmaine.org/home/news/eliot-water-sewer-extension-project-public-information> . Citizens or any interested party can sign up to receive two-week updates and other information about this major project by sending an email to rt236project@eliotme.org and asking to be added to the mailing list.

Below is a summary map of just some of the work. These major infrastructure investments are needed, we also will be starting some of the tertiary and secondary roads owned by the Town of Eliot, a list is on the Public Works page of the website.

Route 236 TIF Area Sewer & Water Extension Bi-Weekly Progress Report June 12, 2023



We did hold our monthly meeting today with all the partners in Town Hall. The construction crews will be returning primarily to day work. Pre-blast testing and testing has still not been scheduled. State Road work is finishing up and temporary paving will be applied in the coming days. More information can be found at the links above.

MSAD #35 Monthly Meeting

The monthly town/gown meeting for Eliot and South Berwick was held Thursday June 14, 2023. Superintendent Caverly and all in attendance were very appreciative of the election results in both communities. Each town posted a significant positive vote on the school budget ballots respectively.

We discussed the amount of road and infrastructure repairs throughout the district which was causing challenges to bus routes and discussed how we may work together to mitigate any autumn projects from adding to the challenges. Congratulations to all the Marshwood

graduates as well as all the other institutions of learning Eliot citizens are leaving in the rearview this June!

Website Refresh, Access Channel.

We will begin the “rebuild” of eliot.org over the next several months. This is supported by an ARPA appropriation made by the Eliot Select Board. This is another method to improve communications with the residents of Eliot, something the SB is dedicated to doing.

The Access channel is another part of that strategy and is proving to be more difficult than originally proposed. Between finding a vendor, retirements at Comcast and other pressing tech issues getting this project on track has been difficult to say the least. We will stay at it and get it done as soon as possible.

There will be a significant number of features to make navigation more fluid on the frontend and easier for us to change content on the backend. The construction has started and we hope to have the new site up and running for the Fall or sooner.

Boat Basin.

The new Community Service Officers working through the Eliot Police Department will be regular weekend fixtures at Dead Duck and we continue to gather important information in order to build a better model in future years.

We are trying to find a non-toxic way to deal with the bee and ant populations at the playscape, but they are both very industrious species and we want to be environmentally responsible in any deterrent we may use.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
Town of Eliot, Manager