

Eliot Town Manager Report

August 29, 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.

Hammond Park Pond.

Some of you may have noticed we recently installed signage near the pond encouraging visitors to respect the habitat which was created by the municipality a few years back.

It now is home to geese; turtles and I suspect other fauna. We often witness deer feeding on the grasses and ground hogs doing their thing in the neighborhood surrounding the pond. We are encouraging residents to respect the habitat and leave the wildlife alone, avoid feeding, chasing, or especially capturing the Hammond Pond residents.

It seemed unnecessary to say, but since we witnessed it, we also would strongly suggest not wading or swimming in the pond. Thank you to CSD Heather Roy for getting the signs up! Nice work!



State PFAS Identification Program

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is initiating an investigation into the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from the land application of sludge statewide. The DEP's initiative is in accordance with 2021 Public Law Chapter 478, An Act to Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater. The Town of Eliot will become part of the research on or about October 18, 2021.

The purpose of DEP's investigation is to identify sites statewide that are impacted, with a special focus on farmland. The municipality will cooperate and support these efforts. For more information or how you can help please email DEP through Nancy.McBrady@maine.gov or call 207-287-4514.

The hope is this investigation will lead to some remedies to this environmental threat and some assistance in implementing a solution for those concerns, including grants for farmers who may have to take steps to remove possible contaminants.

Marshwood Schools! They are back!

We ask that everyone take extra caution when driving as the days get shorter and the buses get rolling, we need to redouble our safe driving efforts.

We have worked throughout the summer to assist the Marshwood Schools by supplying them with roll off carts to remove furniture, equipment and material that is no longer needed, the Public Works assisted in repairing a broken culvert at the entrance of the Middle School (in the ROW) and we continue to look for ways to partner where we can to lower overall costs for the district without increasing cost to the municipality. Sort of reminiscent of the old seesaw, even though the ride seems more like a merry go round.

FY 2022 Audit Complete

The Select Board will be reviewing the FY 2022 Audit at their September 14 meeting. The full audit documents have been posted on the Town of Eliot website.

Much of what is cited as concerns for FY 2022 by RHR Smith Associates has been addressed through the hard work of the Finance Director Kristin McNulty. Procedures for cash handling and disbursement have been improved, as well as general accounting principles. The cash position has grown significantly as well as the unassigned fund balance.

We are looking forward to continued progress towards solid GASB financial practices (which themselves are always changing). There were no material weaknesses or serious breaches of best practices identified in the Management letter or conveyed verbally.

Town Clerks Office Closure

Please be aware the Eliot Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Thursday September 21 for staff to attend mandatory training in Augusta, we apologize in advance for any inconvenience and ask that you plan accordingly.

Road Projects.

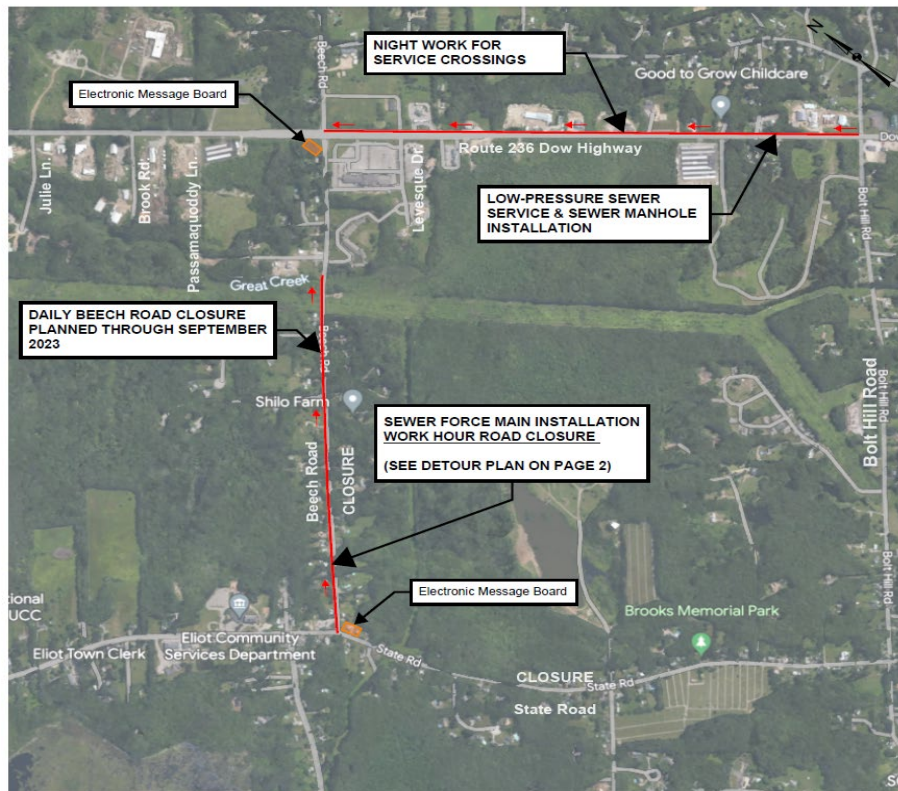
The 236/Beech/State projects are progressing rapidly. I get it "not rapidly enough"! the truth of the matter is the project is ahead of schedule.....slightly. There is nightwork this week on 236 and we apologize for this necessary change. We know how frustrating it can be to homes close to the action.

We also are excited about the increased number of local streets which have been paved. Don't worry Jennie Lane you will be done before the snow flies. All construction and paving will be finished up in the next 6 to 7 weeks as the hot top plants are scheduled to close for the winter.

We are working through some issues where the improved road surface changed hydrology in the area of the work. The historic rains and the soil being saturated to begin with has not made the problem for anyone. There are puddles where there used to be beach sand. We cannot promise we can solve them all, and there are limitations as to what a municipality can do in terms of private property. We will do as much and as best we can in finding solutions.

Please go to the town website for more information on various projects. Thank you for your extreme patience.

**Route 236 TIF Area Sewer & Water Extension Bi-Weekly Progress Report
August, 21 2023 – September 1, 2023**



KEY:

— REPRESENTS THE ANTICIPATED WORK AREAS OVER THE NEXT 2 WEEKS.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town Manager, Eliot