



TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE

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Monthly Report to the Town Council –April 2021 - Presented May 10, 2021

Happy Spring! April showers bring May...Road Construction! As you all can see the Benton Avenue Storm Water project is underway along with the two-way traffic conversion just across the river. Be on the lookout for lane closures and traffic backups from now through August.

Just when we thought there was a light at the end of the tunnel with COVID our Fire Department was hit with an entire shift being diagnosed positive. Clearly this created a staffing crisis. Kudos to Chief Rodriguez and his staff for making the best of a very difficult situation and keeping the lights on. With COVID cases on the rise it is now just as important as ever to mask up, stay 6 feet apart and get those vaccines!

The new Administrative Assistant for Public Works and Fire starts on Monday, May 10. She is a face that is familiar to many around the Town having worked for Public Works in the past on a part-time basis and serving as our present bookkeeper. Sherie Fisher comes to us with a bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minor in Business Administration and 10 years of business experience. Welcome Sherie!

I would like to again recognize Judy Mathiau in her role as President of the Maine Chapter of the IAAO (International Association of Assessing Officers) for her success in creating the "Just Ask the Assessor: JATA Mentor Program". Last month she was written up in the MMA newsletter. This month it's a national publication! You can find her on page 22 of the May/June edition of the IAAO Fair + Equitable magazine. Congratulations on recognition that's well deserved (despite the photo from Rockland instead of Winslow)!

Projects:

Phone System Upgrade. We are still working on getting a final quote from Consolidated Communications to upgrade the phone system to the current platform and bring Public Works and the Library on board with the rest of the Town's network. It is likely we will go with this option rather than the Otelco proposal.

The new Town Website. Revize will be presenting to the Council on May 10. They have submitted a proposal for a robust website and ongoing support. We are excited to have them present to you and look forward to a new website that is both functional and beautiful as well as easy to use.

The Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing will be conducted via Zoom on two days June 16 and June 22 in order to allow as much participation as possible. KVCOG will handle the advertising and is coordinating the Zoom meeting platform.

The Junior High Building. Peter Drapeau and I agreed that he would work on getting a quote for an environmental survey. It will cost \$3,500 for the firm to do a survey and a proposal for a full Environmental Study. This is the only way forward regardless of whether the Town ultimately sells the building or demolishes it. Neither can happen without the environmental study being done first. The preliminary appointment with the engineering firm for the survey will be on a Saturday in the next couple of weeks.

Food Waste Pilot. The Food Waste Pilot launch on April 22, Earth Day, was a huge success! Approximately 50 people showed up in the cold blustery weather and we immediately ran out of the free counter-top compost bins. We have had numerous requests and inquiries after the event, and Greg Williams at Agricycle reports that the bins are getting a lot of use with good clean food scraps being deposited. We are holding a Mother's Day promotion to get a free bin for sending in a selfie with your mom which we will post on our FaceBook page. Look for more events to come as we move forward.

Property Sales

The **Orion Ropeworks** sale closed on April 22. The net proceeds from the sale to the town were \$1,895,566. The monies have been deposited to the Sale of Town Property Account. \$900,000 will be appropriated to the Streets & Roads Capital account prior to June 30 in anticipation of summer road construction needs as outlined in the Capital plan.

Respectfully submitted by,
Erica LaCroix
Town Manager