



TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE

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Monthly Report to the Town Council –February 2023 - Presented March 13, 2023

Esteemed Councilors,

February was another busy month compounded by the short number of working days.

February 1 Coffee with the Manager was well attended and had a focus on beautification and Fort Halifax Park events. The Winslow Girl Scout Troop would like to participate in any way they can with the Beautification Committee and would be happy to volunteer to plant flowers and keep them watered. Ideas for park events included some we've heard before and some new ones. Holding movie nights with popcorn, food truck days and live music were among the suggestions. It was mentioned that the Girl and Boy Scouts would be willing to volunteer to do cleanup and that we could have a bottle recycling collection at events that they could be used for donations to these two groups. I love the ideas and want to keep them coming. I also need people willing to head up or participate in an Event Committee to make this happen. As a reminder the Coffee with the Manager meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. We are holding the meetings in the Library unless another business requests that we do it there, and sessions in the main floor of the library have been working out well for participation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On February 22 we held another public engagement meeting for the Public Safety Department. There were no attendees from the public. Only one councilor and a couple of firefighters showed up so the meeting was cut short after 20 minutes. I will advertise another meeting in March, and if we get no participation in that event I will call them off. Council did authorize the immediate internal posting for an Interim Deputy Police Chief at the February Council meeting and that job was posted internally for 10 days. Only one candidate applied. Officer Randy Wing who has 30 years of experience including experience as a police chief will step up to the interim position on March 6.

On February 22 we also held what I hope will be one of our last Comprehensive Planning Committee meetings. We are at the point of developing strategies to achieve the plan's stated goals which means we are nearing the end of the project and should be able to publish the final Comprehensive Plan within the next couple of months. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22 at 6 p.m.

On February 28 I was able to successfully submit the application for RDA Economic Development funding in coordination with and on behalf of Maine Crisp. If this request is successful we will purchase new equipment that will allow them to expand into flat crackers and cookies. They anticipate adding 15 jobs as a result of this expansion. Maine Crisp would lease the equipment back from the Town over a 15 year period after which they would own it outright. I am excited to see their growth in Winslow and keeping my fingers crossed that we are able to obtain this funding!

Firefighter Ben Loubier announced his departure from the Winslow Fire Department on February 21. His last day with the department will be March 11. I wish to thank him for his several years of service to Winslow as both a firefighter and a patrol officer. We wish him well. In good news Michael Murphy has been hired to fill the vacant Lieutenant position which will again bring the department up to full staff. Mike comes to us from Fairfield where he was a Captain and he has 22 years of experience. He will come on board on March 13.

Teresa Crawford also announced her resignation from the Police Department dispatcher/administrative assistant position. She has opted to take a job with Elanco. Teresa has been great to work with over my tenure here and Elanco is lucky to be getting her. Teresa's last day is March 3.

The FY2024 Budget will be submitted to Council on March 6. The budget workshops will be held March 14, March 16 and March 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Library. The public is allowed to participate. Schools will present to Council on Monday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Erica LaCroix
Town Manager