

Covid-19 Status

Recent

Recent Covid surge management, including Town staff for isolation and quarantine.

Two home test kit programs from the state received/distributed (received January 1st and January 7th). No additional test kit programs expected.

Working with State DPH for a temporary regional PCR Covid testing site. Will be a quick startup, and aiming to start the week of January 18th, operational Monday-Saturday, with typical 10AM opening time. Murphy Park building, which means some reworking of typical uses and shared efforts between Town departments and other entities. This is a cold-weather location, and will be reconsidered as Spring months arrive.

Continued monitoring of Eastern CT / Windham County metrics. Per data.ct.gov website, as of January 11, 2022, there have been 1,672 cases; compared with 1,380 cases as of December 13, 2021. Like almost every municipality in the state, Putnam remains "red", meaning average daily rate of 15 or more cases per 100,000.

Regarding case numbers, per NDDH and other state/federal information; since the recent surge includes recommendations to manage cases individually with home tests, the total case count is no longer as accurate. Same as last month: Coordination with Day Kimball for onsite vaccine and booster programs at Municipal Complex.

Same as last month: Continued requirements for unvaccinated being masked. Watching recommendations for masking/testing regardless of vaccination status, and will modify if federal or state requirements change.

Upcoming

Coordination with DPH and testing provider for Town facilities.

Continued monitoring and mask compliance for non-vaccinated.

Town Administration

Contract Updates

Similar to last month: Pending state approval, expect January 2022 Award for the Church Street and Woodstock Ave Pavement and Sidewalk Improvements project to low-bidder B&W for \$1.78M. Coordinating with DOT for RFQ for engineering during construction and inspection efforts.

Recent

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Ongoing planning and receipt of information for requests and projects. Coordinating design for Simonzi Park Streambank and Kennedy Drive Parking Lot Improvements. Final Plan issued by Federal Government early January 2022 (replaces interim, with amendments related to questions received). State agencies including CCM organizing updated training and summary webinars. First report to federal government due April 2022.

Continued updates to new website, including ARPA subpage with project information, links to federal and state guidelines and created Town funding application form.

Coordinating with Economic Dev't Office - they're preparing Providence Street Improvements grant application.

Preparing Town budget components for FY2023, including Town department and Library information, CIP, revenue and other components. Expect February 2022 budget workshop(s) with BOS.

Similar to last month: Continued Punch list for Municipal Complex, coordinating with Building Committee for final contract decisions. Expect to add irrigation system and possibly sitework for playground area.
Same as last month: Continued coordination with Real Estate Agent for Town Hall and Library properties (Delpha Very assist).

Ongoing Union communications, ongoing negotiations with the Town Hall staff sub-group. Shared Town's proposals based on the subgroup and expect Union review/feedback January 2022.

Upcoming

Town budget preparation, review and revisions as the budget process moves through internal, Mayor, BOS, BOF and final Town Meeting steps.

Ongoing: research and discussion about ARPA funds, including vetting and considering outside agency requests with BOS. Spring 2022 report due to Federal Government.

Continued Union negotiations expected for all three subgroups through first months of 2022.

Same as previous: Work with Novus to create email addresses for all Town employees, including field crews, as means of Human Resource and Management direct communication.

Municipal Complex

Recent

Same as last month: Final construction activities including punch list, coordinating with architect, construction manager and Building Committee. Consideration for final contract work. Ongoing coordination with various vendors and subcontractors.

Ongoing coordination for various uses of space including TVCCA meal program start, use of Community Rooms, Commission on Aging activities in Community Room.

Upcoming

Same as last month: Coordination with Building Committee for expected startup and commissioning efforts over next several months; with expected project file closeout activities in 2022.

Road and Sidewalk Improvements

Recent

Continued efforts toward contract aware for Church Street and Woodstock Ave Pavement and Sidewalks Project.

Same as last month: Continued coordination with NECCOG for LOTCIP applications for School Street Sidewalks and Grove Street Sidewalks. SHPO application for Grove Street

[Same as last month: Note that Highway has various more standard paving projects ongoing and upcoming.]

Upcoming

After receipt of state approval, Town/B&W Contract Execution for Church Street and Woodstock Ave Pavement and Sidewalks Improvements.

Same as last month: Address DOT comments to Grove Street and School Street sidewalks design submittals. NECCOG completing Grove Street design, expect J&D to propose design finalization efforts for School Street design (update ~5 year ago School Street sidewalk design documents).

Bridges

Recent

Ongoing: Continued planning and design for Danco Road Bridge replacement. Expect 2022 construction start.

Upcoming

Ongoing: In-house minor repairs to bridges to comply with DOT inspection comments.

Ongoing: Continued project management for Town bridge repair/replacement.

Same as last month: Initiate planning and permitting with engineering consultant for East Putnam Road Bridge over Mary Brown Brook. (2022 or beyond construction)

Same as last month: Coordinate with State DOT to explore options for federal or state financing assistance with future replacement of Danco Road Bridge.

Athletic and Recreation

Recent

Ongoing: coordination with consultant Weston & Sampson for Airline Trail Improvements project Trail Bed Improvements including connection to Putnam River Trail at Quinebaug River (Town of Pomfret leading).

Ongoing: Project with Weston & Sampson for alternative analysis and planning for DEEP-funded planning project for River Trail connection to Air Line Trail in Thompson.

Upcoming

Same as previous: Continued trail alternative analysis and planning activities, including discussions with railroad for adjacent trail and/or crossing; and DOT for road-side corridor.

Other Town Responsibilities

Recent

Ongoing tracking of MS4 stormwater requirements (Land Use Agent Bruce Fitzback lead). Coordinate with consultant on wet- and dry-weather sampling and GIS mapping on stormwater structures.

WPCA: Monthly construction progress meeting with USDA and G. Donovan for wastewater treatment plant storage building and generator project (USDA funding). Winter little construction activities, expect construction through Summer 2022.

Same as last month: DEEP provided Final Decision on December 14th on Wheelabrator Expansion, related to Wheelabrator's application for stormwater permit and other environmental permitting - DEEP to finalize and issue permits.

Regarding draft Permit for Town (closed) Municipal Landfill Stewardship Permit - completed DEEP public hearing in mid-December. Comment period has closed and expect final DEEP decision in upcoming month or so.

Upcoming

Same as last month: Land Use Agent drafting procedure for Town-owned properties, including process for possible sale of properties without long-term need or benefit. Expect draft Ordinance for Selectmen review in 2022.

Same as last month: WPCA coordination for quality based selection and advertisement for consulting services, as applicable for state funding.

Similar to last month: Continue coordination and efforts associated with Stormwater MS4 permit requirements, including Town-proposals for text amendments to local regulations (Land Use Agent Bruce Fitzback lead), storm drain sampling and GIS updates. Annual report due in March 2022, internal draft being prepared.

Similar to last month: Execute contract extensions for municipal solid waste handling with Wheelabrator Lisbon.

Planning for Sticker Price change for municipal solid waste.

Ongoing/long-term: Coordinate with Highway Superintendent regarding Fox Road planning for transfer station categorization and permitting as applicable.

Conferences and Training

Recent

Recurring Virtual meetings with NECCOG municipal leaders.

Upcoming

CCM newly elected training and CONN-OSHA.

New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) Annual Conference late January 2022.