

Covid-19 Status

Recent

- Thankfully lower positivity in recent weeks comparatively.
- Ongoing coordination with State DPH regarding continued use of Murphy Park for testing site. Some local advertising with NDDH. Discussions for planning for upcoming weeks/months depending on demand.
- Continued monitoring of Eastern CT / Windham County metrics. Per data.ct.gov website, as of February 15, 2022, there have been 2,040 cases; compared with 1,672 cases as of January 11, 2022. Same as last month: Like almost every municipality in the state, Putnam remains "red", meaning average daily rate of 15 or more cases per 100,000.
- Same as last month: 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.
- While federal/state has not modified its requirement for masking of non-vaccinated individuals in public places, watching news for updates that may reduce requirements, and will modify if federal or state requirements change.

Upcoming

- Ongoing coordination with DPH and testing provider for Town facilities.
- Potential change in masking requirements if federal/state reduces.

Town Administration

Contract Updates

- Received DOT Authorization to Award on February 9th for the Church Street and Woodstock Ave Pavement and Sidewalk Improvements project to low-bidder B&W for \$1.78M. Preparing contract documents for B&W signatures.
- RFQ issued for design services during construction for the Woodstock/Church Improvements; expect selection and contract negotiation in next month.

Recent

- Same as last month. 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.
- Draft Mayor's general government Town budget components for FY2023, including Town department and Library information, CIP, revenue and other components.
- 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/playscape behind Library.
- Old Library closing completed Feb 16th. Expect closing on old Town Hall in late March 2022.
- Ongoing Union communications, finalized proposals for final review with the Town Hall staff sub-group. Next sub-group is Highway and Parks & Rec, expected late February 2022.

Upcoming

- Expect February 2022 budget workshop(s) with BOS. Town budget 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/Ongoing

- Similar to 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; and use of the facilities. Expect final closeout late Spring/early Summer 2022.

Road and Sidewalk Improvements

Recent

- Preparation for executing Contract Documents 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
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[Same as last month: Note that Highway has various more standard paving projects ongoing and upcoming.]

Upcoming

- Review of submissions to the request for qualifications to provide engineering services during construction and inspection services for Church and Woodstock Improvements Project, with ability for this QBS process to expand towards other services for future LOTCIP-funded projects.
- 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. While initial expectations were a 2022 construction period, due to state funding applications and typical timelines, may be 2023 construction.

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

- Coordinate with Recreation Director for preparation of bidding documents to replace roof on Rotary Park Bandstand. Expect to replace with a metal roof, with bidding this Spring 2022, for construction by Summer 2022.
- Coordinate with Land Use Agent and contractor for ongoing Sabin Street Recreation Field construction work, including excavation and gravel removal activities. Based on field conditions, including excessive boulders, Town expects to issue permission to the contractor for a no-cost change - to bring crusher onsite for boulder handling. Days, hours and school schedule to be limited to weekdays, daytime hours, and only when school is not in session.
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- 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

- Public bid documents available for Bandstand Roof Replacement.
- Present viable route for Putnam to Thompson Air Line Gap to the Trails Committee and plan for public outreach activities.

Other Town Responsibilities

Recent

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- Draft Annual Report advertised and available on website, as prepared by Land Use Agent. Final to DEEP in March. 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.
- WPCA: Reviewed responses to RFQ for lead line service inventory work with internal team, and held interviews with select consultants.
- 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 - coordinating with DEEP and our engineer regarding responses to public comments received.

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.
- WPCA: select consultant for lead line service inventory and other work (DPH DWSRF 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, draft for public comment posted.

- Same as last month: Execute contract extensions for municipal solid waste handling with Wheelabrator Lisbon.
- Planning for Sticker Price change for municipal solid waste - expect to issue updated flyer to all residents.
- Ongoing/long-term: Coordinate with Highway Superintendent regarding Fox Road planning for transfer station categorization and permitting as applicable.

Conferences and Training

Recent

- New England Water Environment Association

Upcoming

- CCM seminars including training on holding meetings in contentious times and clean energy program changes.