

Opera House plantings – First I want to thank Dave Jackson for the advice and supervision of the new plantings along the walkway to the meeting room. Working with Farley and Son's Landscaping, they planted what appears to be a perfect solution to a difficult spot. Additionally, I want to thank the Garden club for the plantings in the front of the building, they look particularly nice this year and make the entrance to the Opera House stand out.

Infrastructure projects -

School Street is underway and was proceeding slowly. Because of the delays in the water line installation the drainage installation is running behind. They are also running into a similar problem with ledge and it is taking longer than expected to remove. Now the ledge removal is on our clock and is running about \$3000 a day. Additionally, the new drainage pipes are bigger and catch basins deeper requiring more ledge removal.

Summer Street is also underway, but with similar problems to School Street.

The High Sidewalk is at the same point as the last report due to be started in September. CMP is all set to relocate the power to the east side of Pascal Avenue and are waiting for FairPoint to schedule the pole move. To date they have not informed us of the date they will be moving poles.

Mill Street Bridge has been started and the poles and wire have been moved that were causing the hold up. This project has a couple of challenges with timing in that we can only work there during limited low flow water time and that we have to be completed before the school busses start running. The road has been posted and all emergency services have been notified of the closure.

Pascal Avenue resurface is still scheduled for after the first of September (the same time we will be doing the High Sidewalk) and the Route 90 and 1 intersection traffic light upgrade is scheduled for October.

West street sidewalk extension – is all designed and PWD will begin the construction in the coming weeks. As you remember this is necessary to get the signal at the intersection of Route 1 and 90 for a pedestrian crossing. While there the crew will attempt to straighten up the backstop there and clean up the infield.

Library

The Library AC unit is being installed as I am writing this and should be installed by the time I finish this report.

Ben was back from his vacation just in time for the book sale which was another HUGE success. The actual statistics are not in yet.

Planning

The first session of the ORC was held on Thursday and they finished in one session.

Jamie is also working on the Conservation Commission Grant stakeholder workshop and getting a handle on the TIF information. We have contracted with MCCED to get some technical assistance with this. Jamie also took a look at the downtown TIF and funds there could be used to help pay for the intersection and sidewalk improvements.

Scott is on a much deserved vacation for two weeks and so far Jamie has been able to keep up with the inspections.

Fire Department

The Fire Department has been busy with accidents training and hose testing over the past two weeks and tonight all members of the Department will be doing driver training and testing.

The Chief has been working on the safety program and training for all departments with the Goal of getting all departments SHAPE certified.

General Assistance

While you might think that we should be not seeing cases because of the good weather we are seeing a number of cases of people looking for housing, medical assistance and poverty abatements.

Finance

CIP information is coming in from Department Heads and we will begin working with them over the next two months with a goal of having something ready to present to the board in October.

Public Works Department

The public works crews have been busier than usual. They are trying to keep up with brush cutting and drainage and culvert work and are replacing several culverts on West Street Extension that desperately need replacing and can only be replaced during very low water.

The paving bids are out and expected back in on July 27th at 2:00 p.m.

They were hoping to get started on the painting of crosswalks last week, but illness and the high humidity and vacations has delayed that. They hope to get on it early next week.

Police

With the changes in the department, there is a lot to report.

Our officers are officially sworn in Camden and the Camden officers have been sworn in in Rockport. The paperwork has been filed with the Academy as well. Our joint department meeting was a huge success. I wanted to take a minute to thank the officers of both departments for their willingness to give this idea a try - we have seen good results from that. As you know there were a rash of burglaries that started out in Rockport and moved to Camden. With the two departments working together Camden assisted in the investigation in Rockport by having their sergeant begin to develop a potential suspect which they used as the car burglaries moved to Camden. Working together they quickly solved the case. While this would have happened eventually without the changes in the departments it certainly happened a lot more smoothly and much quicker.

Additionally, there were two other cases of the two agencies working together that provided better services to residents of both towns. In one case, Sergeant Ford of Rockport was able to provide supervision assistance for a Camden officer during a time that Camden did not have a supervisor on duty. Additionally, Camden immediately sent back-up assistance to a call at Pen Bay that was needed that helped dramatically provide a safer environment for all involved.

We are addressing a serious safety issue with two of the three cruisers in Rockport. Two of the cruisers are not equipped with emergency side lighting. This is dangerous because when going through intersections during emergency response there is no lighting on the sides that indicates the vehicle is a police cruiser. This is a hazard when operating cruisers with no light bars and only front and rear lighting. Chief Peasley is scheduled to have work done on the fire trucks next week and the same company will install side blue lights in both cruisers.

We are working on getting officers scheduled for trainings as well. I will be scheduling Sergeant Ford and Officer Wesley Butler to attend the first of three FBI LEEDA trainings in September. These classes fill up fast so scheduling will be done ASAP! The officers will be able to commute together to this week long training.

We are working on filling the vacant slot.

Camden PD covered around 10 hours of patrol time for Rockport this week so officers could get some time off. This was completed without any overtime cost to either agency.

Looking ahead we have a very busy few weeks with many events taking place in both towns. We are working to ensure we have staffing in all areas needed.

Randy is working on implementing other changes and new programs that will help Rockport residents.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Linda is gearing up for the next election on August 2nd and the move out back to the Richardson Room on the third. Reminder that the TC/TX office will be closed on the 3rd and 4th to accommodate the move and that office will be located there for about one month.

Assessing

Inspections are still taking up a lion's share of Kerry's time. While it seems like that is all that is getting done having Caitlin help makes it go much more quickly. This is another example of the two towns working together and providing better service for both. While we don't see Kerry in the office as much, we do see Catlin working here in Rockport getting things done.

Harbor

Parking in the harbor is an increasingly difficult problem. Abbie is working with PD and PWD to get all parking posted as 2-hour parking. Instead of posting signs every 50 feet, we are painting it on the entrance road coming down the hill as "all parking two hours" and once that is done PD will start writing tickets. First for those people parked illegally and then those who are parked there longer than two hours. Additionally, Abbie and staff have been directing parking to the overflow parking on the north side of the Goose River.

Additionally, the harbor is now set up and is taking credit cards. We will work out bugs and kinks in the road over the summer before moving to the Town Clerk & Tax Collectors office in the Fall.