

First Selectman's Report

9/21/21

The Town of Morris recently lost a longtime volunteer. Sally Irwin passed away on September 11th. Sally has been a part of the Morris Public Library Board of Trustees for many years and was instrumental in having the Library moved from under the Fire House to its present location in the Town Hall. She was involved in many important projects in Morris, including the survey on Early Homes of South Farms, which was then made into a book. Sally also served on the Morris Board of Selectmen with First Selectman Harry Weik. Most recently, she worked as the Chore Coordinator for the Litchfield Hills Chore Service, which serves the towns of Morris, Litchfield, Goshen, Roxbury, Warren and Washington.

The Highway Department has been busy with end of summer work including basin top replacements and curbing installation on East Shore Road and Slab Meadow Road. The trucks and equipment are being readied for the winter plowing season. A regional screener was rented by the Town and the crew screened compost to create some excellent top soil that will be used for projects throughout the Town. A number of roads in Town were fog sealed, which will extend the life of the road and help reduce maintenance costs.

Thank you to White Flower Farm for donating five ornamental trees to the Town. The Highway Department planted the trees in our Town Park.

Congratulations to i2systems of Morris for being a leader in next-gen DC-ready LED lighting. They were mentioned in an article by the Center for Sustainable Energy as part of the Big-Box Efficiency Project at a Walmart Supercenter in Southern California. The goal of this project is to reduce the store's electricity use by at least 20%. It is wonderful to see a local business being at the forefront of this emerging technology. Here is a link to that article:
<https://energycenter.org/thought-leadership/blog/unlocking-deep-energy-savings-existing-big-box-retail>

The Transfer Station Wall Replacement Project is moving forward, although there was a delay due to the storms. The contractor, Dayton Construction was needed elsewhere to repair storm damage in nearby towns, but they are expected to be back on the job this coming Monday and will stay there until they are finished. The compactors were moved back into place and the needed welding work has completed. The electrician has hooked the compactors back up and they are ready to go. Once the construction work is finished, the Swap Shop will reopen along with the oil and antifreeze building.

After many months of work by the First Selectman and the Highway Foreman, the Town of Morris will receive over \$23,000.00 in reimbursement from FEMA from the storm damage due to the tropical storm Isais in August of 2020. The final meeting with our FEMA liaison was yesterday at which we signed the an agreement. Next, the State of CT will reach out to arrange the payment from FEMA to the Town.

The Town of Morris Housing Plan by the Housing Steering Committee is finished and was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their last meeting. The Board of Selectmen will be discussing it at an upcoming meeting as well.

We are almost ready to start taking credit card payments for the Building Department, Town Clerk's Office, Senior Center, Beach and Recreation and the Transfer Station. Our Treasurer, Rick Nicoletti has been working with Union Savings bank to arrange for this option of payment.

The First Selectman continues to meet with department heads, employees, Local, State and Federal officials on a regular basis including the Treasurer, Town Clerk, Assessor, Tax Collector, Transfer Station Foreman, Building Official, Torrington Area Health District, Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Fire Marshal, Fire Chief, EMS Chief, Eversource Liaison, FEMA, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Region 6, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.