

## First Selectman's Report

May 19, 2020

**COVID-19 Update:** As of May 19<sup>th</sup> there are 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Morris. The Governor continues to release executive orders on a regular basis which affect our decision making for our Town. As things progress we will continually update our plans for Town Hall and Town events.

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**Annual Budget Meeting:** The Board of Finance will hold the annual Budget Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> to decide on the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget and set the Mill Rate. They are taking public comment either by email at [BOF@townofmorrisct.com](mailto:BOF@townofmorrisct.com) or by mail at Morris Community Hall, PO Box 66, 3 East St. Morris, CT 06763. The meeting will be held on Zoom and can be accessed either by phone or computer. Check the Town website for access information at [townofmorrisct.com](http://townofmorrisct.com).

**Memorial Day and Town Beach:** It now appears that the American Legion Post 173 will lead the Town in honoring our veterans on Memorial Day. There will be small, limited ceremonies at each cemetery on Monday morning and another ceremony with the laying of the wreaths at the memorial monuments in the Town park following. At noon the flag will be raised from half-mast and the Morris Fire Company will conduct a parade with the Fire Company vehicles through the Town and drive past Morris Veteran's homes. The Town Beach will open starting this Saturday for the Memorial Day weekend. Last year's stickers will be honored through the end of June.

**Highway Department:** The Morris Highway Department has been very busy lately with drainage and catch basin replacement on East Shore Road. They have now moved to Smokey Hollow Road to begin additional drainage there prior to reclaiming and paving that road. They are also working with Litchfield Public Works to grade our dirt roads. They have begun to mow the athletic fields and beach area. Brush was removed at the beach parking lot to open the view of the lake. Tree work continues around the Town in order to keep up with the dying Ash trees. Soon the crew will be sweeping the roads and crack sealing will be performed prior to roads being chip sealed this summer.

**Smokey Hollow Bridge Project:** This project is winding down and the bridge is expecting to open by the end of the month. Finishing touches including signage, paint, and backfilling are being applied. This will be a one lane bridge with stop signs at each end and alternating traffic. The bridge was funded with 80% Federal money and a 150,000 STEAP Grant from the State of Connecticut. The balance was paid by the Town of Morris.

**Morris Public Library:** The Library is continuing to expand their services when possible. The popular curbside book pickup continues. Please contact the Library at 860-567-7440 or at [egranoth@biblio.org](mailto:egranoth@biblio.org).

**Morris Fire Company:** The Morris Fire Company has had a busy time lately responding to 6 incidents so far this month including a gas leak, three structure fires and a submerged motor vehicle at the State Boat Launch. They have also been busy with the weekly Fire Engine Parades during which they collected huge amounts of food for the Morris Food Pantry from Morris Residents. Thank you to everyone involved.

Weekly meetings continue with the Governor and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Also attended Planning and Zoning, Board of Finance, Beach and Recreation, Northwest Hills Council of Governments and Bantam Lake Watershed meetings.

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Tom Weik, First Selectman