

## First Selectman's Report

August 18, 2020

Highway Department: The Highway Department has been busy with the storm cleanup, taking down trees and chipping brush. They are also busy making repairs to the lower cabin at the Town Beach along with the mowing of the beach area and ball fields. They are working with S & S Paving to prepare Smokey Hollow Road for paving which should take place this Friday. Work on the siding at the Town Garage will be completed once the windows are installed.

Planning and Zoning Commission is continuing its work on the Plan of Conservation and Development and has a survey for Townspeople to complete that will help the Town of Morris determine what conservation, land use and development concerns are most important to Morris town residents. A link to this online survey is located at the top of the Town of Morris website homepage. The Planning and Zoning Commission is also looking for volunteers to serve on the commission. If you are interested, please contact the Commission at [planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com](mailto:planningandzoning@townofmorrisct.com) or the Town Clerk's Office at [townclerk@townofmorrisct.com](mailto:townclerk@townofmorrisct.com) or 860-567-7433.

Morris Beach and Recreation continues the summer activities with concerts at the Morris Town Beach and at the Memorial Park. They sponsored a very successful Bantam Lake Boat Parade this past Saturday and are presenting a sold out show featuring a Billy Joel tribute band called River of Dreams this Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Morris Town Beach.

The Selectman's Office was busy during the storm and aftermath checking roads and providing wellness visits to our residents. We worked closely with our Eversource liaison, providing the company with outage locations, pole numbers and street addresses. At the height of the outage, Morris had approximately 77% of the Town without power. The Morris Fire Company set up a charging station and water was made available at the Morris Fire House. We currently have about 15 locations in Town without cable/internet and West Morris Road still has downed communication wires that are waiting for the phone and cable companies to repair. The First Selectman contacted Senator Miner's Office with the Town's concerns over the continued communication outages and the Senator's Office have been actively helping with the situation.

The Senior Center/Eldridge Housing Complex had its main well fail due to a malfunctioning controller leading to a low water issue. Grella Well Drilling was on the scene quickly and filled the storage tanks with well water from their trucks and replaced the well control. The First Selectman's Office contacted the State Emergency Operations Center and requested drinking water for the Eldridge residents. The State National Guard delivered four pallets of bottled water to the Senior Center and the water was delivered to some residents and picked up by others.

The First Selectman continues to actively participate in meetings on behalf of the Town including the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Legislative Meeting, a Housing Grant meeting with P & Z Chair David Whiig and COG's Jocelyn Ayer, DEEP meeting on ordinances regarding the feeding of bears on residential property, Council of Small Towns Affordable Housing Working Group regarding a bill that has been introduced concerning zoning and affordable housing, Region 5 Regional Emergency Planning Team, and the Region 5 Regional Recovery Steering Committee along with our biweekly meeting with

Region 5 Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security with area Town Leaders, Emergency Management Directors, Local Health Departments and Hospital representatives.

Tom Weik

First Selectman

