

## First Selectman's Report

October 15, 2019

The Highway Department work on Slab Meadow Road is winding down. Drainage was installed and the road has been reclaimed and paved. Driveway aprons and curbing have been installed and the back filling behind the curbing will be completed soon.

The Town has purchased 6 automated external defibrillators which will be placed at Town buildings including the Transfer Station, Senior Center, Beach Pavilion, Town Garage, and Community Hall. The Activities Director will also have one to bring on the bus trips. The Town employees will receive training on CPR/AED provided by Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Community Hall.

There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Community Hall to hear about the possibility of bringing a fiber optic network to the northwest corner of Connecticut. This network would provide cell service, broadband internet and TV service to the area towns. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM in the community room. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Superintendent of Schools Chris Leone will bring his town tour to Morris on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the James Morris School. Stop by and learn about the status of our schools and the plans for the future.

The Small Cities Grant Program in Morris has wrapped up with 7 families utilizing 250,000 of the 400,000 grant the Town applied for and received. The families were able to make much needed repairs and upgrades to their homes through this program.

The Smokey Hollow Bridge Project continues on time and under budget. The east side abutment is being constructed and the steel beams have been made and are ready for delivery. The bridge will remain shut down through the winter and is expected to be open in the spring.

We contacted the DOT regarding some concerns on some of the State roads in Morris. This conversation resulted in the removal of two passing zones, one on

West Shore Road and one on West St. They will also be installing no parking signs on West Shore Rd in the area north of Benedict Road and will install signage to make the intersection of County Road and Alain White Road safer. Thank you to all the concerned citizens who reached out to us about these issues.

Participated in a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities workshop in Harwinton and also in the Northwest Council of Government Meetings. We discussed Connecticut's waste crisis, the Local Emergency Management Director and Municipal Official Handbook, Regional Transportation Planning, an OPM request on shared services, Fiber-Optic Broadband Deployment for the Northwest Hills, and held a discussion with the DOT Commissioner Joseph Giulietti on transportation issues and the status of roadway and transit improvements in the northwest hills region.

Communicated with DEEP Commissioner Dykes and Deputy Commissioner Whalen and have agreed to meet in the near future to discuss the safety and water quality issues with Bantam Lake.

Attended and participated in the Smokey Hollow Bridge Update meetings with DOT and project engineers. Attended Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. Held an information meeting on a State bridge project slated to start in 2020 on Route 109, west of the Transfer Station. Met with the Zoning Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal, Fire Chief, Planning and Zoning Chairman, Activities Director, Library Director, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessor, Building Official and the Torrington Area Health District representative.