



# Millinocket

Maine's Biggest Small Town

## Town Manager's Report – 8.11.22

### **CDBG / Veterans Park**

- As of 8/9, Underwood Electric is back on site in Veterans Park to put the finishing touches on this project.
- This includes the new light poles, overhead lights, and upgraded electrical panel.
- The Underwood Electric crew has done a great job on this project for us and for that we are grateful.
- To recap: Through the State of Maine Community Development Block Grant funding, The Town of Millinocket was able to hire Under Electric, through Haley Ward, to upgrade our electrical service to Veterans Park, install additional outlets for use by vendors and others during community events, install over head lighting throughout the park, and up-lighting on our Veterans Memorial. During the same period, we were a benefactor of new trees that were planted along the walkway via funding from the Canopy Project. This all has come together nicely and gave our Veterans Park a much-needed update!

### **Municipal Building & GNP Park:**

- We recently had our Public Works crew at the municipal building to remove the neglected and overgrown bushes along the sidewalk. This instantly provided a major improvement and was much easier on the eyes. They also pressure washed the GNP pocket park between the Municipal Building and the Gear Library/Yum Bakery/Boreal Theater and trimmed back the tree out front so that it is no longer up against the building, awning, and windows.
- Adam Ouellette of Ouellette Electric was back to address the electrical outlets in the GNP park to bring them back to life.
- This is a work in progress. We are planning to scrape and paint the peeling and cracking paint, replace some signs with our current branding and other little things to provide a nice facelift.
- I hope we can make good use of the GNP park that now hosts the Bike service station, free to use for anyone to service their bikes as they need.
- We hope this shows our sense of pride in community and that we want to things to look as nice and welcoming as can be!

### **Town Pool:**

- The temporary pool filtration system has been in place for going on two weeks and has been working great! I have had my kids there several times and can testify that the water looks just as clean as ever!
- Major thanks to Mike's Pool Service for allowing us the use of this temporary set up to finish out the season and to Jody Nelson and her staff for their efforts in managing the additional work related to the temporary system.
- We have the funds for replacing the filtration system included on tonight's agenda.



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## **Our Katahdin / EPA/ Ransom Consulting**

- Several councilors and I participated in a meeting and presentation from Our Katahdin along with their partners from Environmental Protection Agency and Ransom Consulting.
- This meeting was open to the public, there was limited attendance unfortunately, but we learned a great deal about what's been going on with Our Katahdin and the One North site.
- OK provided big picture and strategic updates as to investments being made into the site and potential new tenants. All very exciting things for our town and our region!
- The EPA was there to speak more about how that process works while redeveloping a former industrial site like ours. How it can take millions of dollars just have the intense studies done on the ground to understand the potential risks of new development and how to best prepare the land for new investment.
- Ransom Consulting was also there to speak about their work in administering these EPA grant funds for Our Katahdin. They are leading experts in the field and we as a community are so incredible lucky that they are here working in partnership with Our Katahdin to move this property along.

## **Airport:**

- After many discussions with multiple outfits, we have been able to arrange for W.T. Gardner to cut and clear 15-20 acres of airport land. They will be doing this at no cost to the town and will be taking the trees with them to be processed into chips. This work will take place in late fall once the ground hardens.
- This will open more land for potential new leases and new hangers. We already have several potential lessees interested in building new hangers on these lots.
- These leases will add to Airport revenue, helping to offset the cost of operating the facility and provide new taxable personal property to be added to our tax rolls.
- The official Notice to Proceed has been granted by the Northern Border Regional Commission. This means the engineering and design work of our new Airport Terminal can begin!
- This was a complicated ball of yarn to untangle after the project had changed hands several times. I would like to personally thank our CID Amber, Chairman Golieb, the NBRC staff, and Patric Santerre at Arcadia Design Works for sticking with it and playing a part in bringing this project into the next phase!



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## Community Workshop:

- On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, we have our Community Resilience Partnership Community Workshop. This was previously scheduled in July and had to be postponed. We are excited to dive into this process.
- Location TBD but keep an eye on email, social media, and Millinocket.org
- Joining this partnership allows us the opportunity to apply for funding in relation to Millinocket's resiliency to the impacts of climate change. The funding is offered in either two \$50k max grants or one \$100K max grant per year. These funds can be spent in many different efforts that follow "Maine Won't Wait" Guidelines.
- Examples of projects could include heat pumps for town buildings and local businesses, weatherization of town buildings and homes, electric car charging stations, electric vehicles, LED lighting upgrades, etc.

## Reminder:

- **The best way to reach me as Town Manager is to call the town office (207-723-7000) or email me ([manager@millinocket.org](mailto:manager@millinocket.org)). Social media is not an appropriate form of communication to me or the council. It does not guarantee a response or even that the comment would be seen.**
- **I hope that any member of our community feels comfortable reaching out to me with any questions or concerns they have. All are welcome!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Jamieson, Town Manager.