

## **Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 06/07/2016:**

**1. The FYI Folder:** FYI Folder which contains items that come in between the Town Council Meetings has the following this evening: See List

### **2. Events which took place:**

NB13 - The Nolan Berthelette Story was held on Friday-Saturday, May 20-21 at 7:30 pm at the Pittsfield Community Theatre. The After Party was on Friday evening at 9:00 pm at the Seabasticook Valley Elks Lodge on Central Street.

HealthySV High on Life 5K Run/1K Walk on Saturday, May 21, 2016 starting at 10:00 am with registration open at 8:30 am at Maine Central Institute

Police Hooked on Fishing on Saturday, May 28, 2016 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Manson Park Lower Parking Lot and the Seabasticook River

### **3. Upcoming Events:**

44th Annual Central Maine Egg Festival on Monday, July 11 - Saturday, July 16, 2016 at Manson Park, Hathorn Park, and many other locations!

2016 Maine Central Institute Reunion on Friday, August 5 – Sunday, August 7, 2016 at the campus

### **4. Time Warner Cable/Charter Merger:**

As part of a national transaction, Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”) combined with Time Warner Cable Inc. (“TWC”) and Bright House Networks, LLC (“BHN”) into a single company, “New Charter.” Prior to the close of the transaction, the entity that held the cable franchise in your community was an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of TWC. Upon completing the merger on May 18, 2016, the cable franchisee is now an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of New Charter. New Charter has assumed the name Charter Communications, Inc.

Charter markets its products and services under the brand name “Spectrum.” In the coming weeks and months, we are to learn more about Charter and its Spectrum services. Charter indicates that Spectrum is the fastest-growing TV, Internet, and Voice provider in the United States, serving more than 24 million customers nationwide in 41 states across the country. As the second largest cable company in America, Spectrum has over 90,000 employees working every day to deliver the products, value, and service to customers. We are advised that Charter is well known for its customer-focused and friendly operational practices, network investment, and product and pricing strategies. We are further advised that while ultimate ownership and control of our cable franchisee has changed, the actual entity that holds the cable franchise in your community remains the same and no further action is required on your part.

### **5. Project Canopy – Pittsfield Community Project: Gateway to Downtown:**

All 20 trees have been spoken for on Somerset Avenue from the Project Canopy Grant. 19 were planted with 1 more to be planted this week. Students from classes at Warsaw and Vickery went out to learn about and participate in tree planting on Monday, May 23, 2016. More than 100 children participated. Now it is time to compile all the grant paperwork for reimbursement and close-out this week and next week to submit to the State on or by June 15, 2016.

The Town has been fortunate to receive grant funding through the Maine Forestry Service to purchase up to 20 shade trees along Somerset Avenue for planting this Spring. The Town's Comprehensive Plan identifies Somerset Avenue as one of the gateways to the community. As the shade trees along Somerset Avenue were planted many years ago, a number have been removed due to deterioration. Planting new shade trees along Somerset Avenue would be advantageous for many reasons.

Letters were sent to property owners along Somerset Avenue to see if they would be interested in the planting of a tree in the right-of-way of Somerset Avenue along their property. The Town will be working with a MDOT Licensed Landscape Architect to determine the appropriate locations for trees along Somerset Avenue. The trees will need enough room to grow; enough sunlight for growth; and to be located away from infrastructure such as poles, water and sewer lines and power lines. This means that some locations along Somerset Avenue will not be appropriate for a tree to be planted. The Town has ordered Flowering Crab, Ginkgo, Hawthorn and Red Maples.

The Town has been fortunate to have had some extensive capital improvements over the last decade, funded in large part through extensive grant and foundation awards. Several businesses in Town have overwhelmingly supported a number of projects by providing personnel, equipment and/or supplies as match for some of the grants, for which the Town is extremely grateful. We are pleased to now be able to turn our attention to the beautification of Somerset Avenue.

The State of Maine Transportation Department Landscape Architect will be down on Wednesday, 05/18/2016 to meet with the Public Works Foreman to review the tree locations. We still have a few trees left that need homes along Somerset Avenue.

The trees have been ordered and we had contacted the property owners who signed up for a tree planting in the State right-of-way in front of their property. The tree plantings will take place on Monday, 05/23/2016 and likely continue on Tuesday, 05/24/2016. Some classes at Vickery and Warsaw Schools will be taking walks down Somerset Avenue to check out the tree plantings and see how to plant a tree.

**6. Pittsfield Summer Concert Series:** We have a small group of citizens led by Jan Laux and Barbara Denaro who are organizing a summer concert series in the park to start after the Egg Festival for four weeks. They are doing a wonderful job, which was discussed under the Economic and Community Development Report

