

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 06/21/2016:

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. Upcoming Events:

Library Science in the Summer: When school is out, Science is in with GSK Science in the Summer™ at the Pittsfield Public Library Trudi Plummer from the Maine Discover Museum in Bangor will present two science programs at the Pittsfield Public Library. On Monday June 27 at 1:00, children will discover the properties of magnetism by exploring the tiny building blocks of all matter: atoms and molecules, playing with magnets and magnetic force fields and making a compass and will also learn about static electricity using pushy balloons and sticky packing peanuts, playing with volts and jolts and indoor mini lightning bolts while exploring the secrets of “shocking” science. On Thursday, June 30 at 1:00 children will learn about electricity, what makes things light up, the flow of electrons, building circuits with surprising materials and experiment with switches, motors, buzzers and gadgets, electromagnets, insulators and conductors, the stop-and-go of electric circuitry. These programs are sponsored by a grant from GSK Foundation.

Summer Reading Program at the Pittsfield Public Library: Get in the Game – Read! during the summer reading program at the Pittsfield Public Library. There will be a story time every Monday at 10:15 for preschool children and special events for older children. A free lunch will be provided Monday – Friday from 12:30 – 1:30 for anyone age 18 and younger. The Portland Sea Dogs have provided free tickets for children. A free family pass to the Maine Discovery Museum can be borrowed, courtesy of the Friends of the Pittsfield Public Library. Come to the library to pick up a full schedule of events and check the library’s Facebook page for updates. For more information, call the library at 487-5880.

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

Concert series covered under the Economic and Community Development Report

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

3. 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.

4. 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 which was relaxed so we have until the end of the week.

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.

5. Tax Liens that matured last December 2015:

The two properties will be coming up for sale as the Town did receive the legal advice to re-do one of them due to the different information provided by the owner about the individual who had a share of the property that we were unable to locate. We also have the little landlocked parcel off the Spring Road.