

MANAGER'S REPORT
August 13, 2020

Paving – Our paving project is underway! You will have a Resolve on the next agenda to award the loan bid for Phase 1 of the project. Bids are due back on August 19th. We had discussed the idea of a line of credit that would cover three years, but the wording of the referendum requires a 7 year repayment. If we borrow each Phase separately, the repayment 7 years for each will be staggered and result in less impact to the budget overall.

Whole Oceans – Whole Oceans has closed its Portland Office and will be utilizing Bucksport as its headquarters. It has leased the building next to the Town Office and is finalizing construction plans so that site work can begin. Rich Rotella and I were invited to their office this past Friday and participated in a photo shoot that was used in the press release announcing the opening of the new office.

HOME Board of Directors – I have been invited to be a member of the H.O.M.E Board of Directors. This organization does important work in this region and I think it would be valuable for me to be on their board, but wanted to check in with the Town Council if there are any objections to my accepting this offer. Work on the Board would be outside of my normal work schedule.

Audit – We have been working on the 19/20 audit for the past week. This portion of it is being conducted from a distance and we have spent a good deal of time scanning and emailing documents to them for review. All is going well, but it is a good deal more work here than when they are able to be here in person and review information.

Census – The response rate for Bucksport as of this morning is 54.6% - which is ten percent less than it was in the 2010 Census. You can still do it online or by phone, and Census workers are also in the area knocking on doors. Everyone counts so please make an effort to participate and encourage your friends and family who live in Bucksport to participate as well.

Property Taxes – The first half of property taxes are due to avoid interest by August 31st. We have collected 12.6 % of the commitment since tax bills went out the second week in July. We have also collected 39.9% of the 19-20 tax liens that were placed on June 30th of this year. Thank you to all the residents who are doing such a great job. We have had some positive comments about tax bills going down – which is the combined impact of the 5 cent mil rate reduction and the increased Homestead Exemption.

COVID-19 Testing Available Locally – The Bucksport Regional Health Center is now doing COVID-19 Testing for both patients and non-patients and including both symptomatic and non-symptomatic persons. Testing times are Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 469-7371 and pressing option 6.

VISTA Volunteer- BBHCC – I participated in a zoom interview with a candidate for the VISTA volunteer position that the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition applied for some time ago. She is bright and energetic and I think would be an excellent fit for the organization and the community. The BBHCC has made an offer and is in the i-dotting, t-crossing stage of the process.

Silver Lake Courtesy Boat Inspections – A representative from the Hancock County Lake Association contacted me with an offer to do some courtesy boat inspections at the Silver Lake Boat launch. I asked her to contact our local Silver Lake Association to see what their thoughts were and she did so. I have attached emails that she sent in regard to this. The group has received some grant funding to do a pilot project with some boat inspections. Participation in this would be entirely voluntary on the part of any boater. There would only be a few days of inspections in this season, volunteer inspectors would be identifiable in bright yellow shirts and would practice safe COVID practices. Is there any objection to allowing such inspections?



Lessard, Susan <slessard@bucksportmaine.gov>

Moving forward- CBI for Silver Lake

1 message

lucy.leaf@yahoo.com <lucy.leaf@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 6:35 PM

Reply-To: "lucybleaf@yahoo.com" <lucybleaf@yahoo.com>

To: Susan Lessard <slessard@bucksportmaine.gov>

Cc: Plourdes2 <plourdes2@roadrunner.com>, Mark Whiting <mark.c.whiting@gmx.com>, Catherine Fox <catfoxtwo@gmail.com>

Hello Susan,

I copied an email I sent to Linda Plourde representing Friends of Silver Lake reiterating our phone conversation regarding Courtesy Boat Inspection for Silver Lake.

The email also provides details about the program and the goals.

Linda Plourde indicates she will be glad to speak with you, if necessary, in support of the program.

Hopefully, this can be brought to the council for permission required to place an intermittent inspector at the Silver Lake boat launch.

Our funding this year will only allow for a few inspection days, but we hope to expand the program next year.

We are required to follow covid-safe practice.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the contacts listed in the cc for any questions you or council members may have. There is no cost or obligation to the town for this lake preservation service.

Lucy Leaf
Surry, Me.
207-266-3212

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



Lessard, Susan <slessard@bucksportmaine.gov>

Courtesy Boat Inspection for Silver Lake

1 message

lucy.leaf@yahoo.com <lucy.leaf@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 6:20 PM

Reply-To: "lucy.leaf@yahoo.com" <lucy.leaf@yahoo.com>

To: Plourdes2 <plourdes2@roadrunner.com>

Cc: Susan Lessard <slessard@bucksportmaine.gov>, Catherine Fox <catfoxtwo@gmail.com>, Mark Whiting <mark.c.whiting@gmx.com>

Hello Linda (Plourde),

I enjoyed our phone conversation today and am glad to hear that Friends of Silver Lake continues to be involved in the preservation of the lake, water rights, water quality, loon count and more. But, as is often the case, there is the familiar situation of just a few doing most of the work, which seems just about universal, I would say, among lake groups.

I mentioned how the newly formed Hancock County Lake Association is collaborating with Hancock County Soil and Water to help lake groups in areas of lake preservation as needed. This year, we are mostly gathering information, but thanks to funding from the Onion Foundation, we have a pilot project in place now to provide some Courtesy Boat Inspection to lakes with public ramps that have no inspectors. For this year, I am the "roving" inspector expanding CBI further to boaters and lake communities.

You have indicated that your group would welcome CBI services to Silver Lake, and may even have a volunteer interested to join in, which we would be more than happy to assist with.

Since we need permission from the town to conduct CBI at the town-owned launch site, I am copying this to town manager Susan Lessard, who I spoke with earlier. She indicates it will need council approval, but wanted us to coordinate with you prior.

As you know, CBI is a DEP program. Inspectors are well identified in bright yellow shirts. We must adhere to covid safety and try very hard not to slow the launch or exit process unnecessarily. This would be particularly important at Silver Lake with a very short ramp and boaters possibly lined-up on the public road. Courtesy boat inspectors have no authority to prevent boats from entering, and depend entirely on cooperation from boaters.

We mostly encourage self-inspection and in this covid environment, can only do a quick inspection from a distance, but we also spread the "clean, drain, dry" message. Most boaters are familiar with CBI and many appreciate what we do as the first line of defense against unwanted plant and animal invaders entering a lake.

With your permission, I am also sharing this email with Catherine Fox of Hancock County Lake Association and Mark Whiting who is heading up the CBI program with Hancock County Soil & Water.

Please feel free to contact any of us on any matters having to do with CBI or lake preservation measures.

I look forward to meeting you and others in the future. While we hope to coordinate on lake preservation, there is no cost or obligation to the town or lake group for this service.

Lucy Leaf
Surry, Me.
207-266-3212

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android