

March 24, 2025

Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



School Department Capital Projects



Regular Update:

- A meeting of the School Department Building Subcommittee took place on Wednesday, March 12th. Both Council Person Kim Page and I are members and were in attendance.
 - The Committee unanimously voted to move forward with a recommendation for legal review followed by forwarding to the School Committee, as the Building Subcommittee is an Advisory Committee, for RFQs for a new Architecture and Engineering Firm and an Owner's Project Management Firm, as both current contracts have expired.
 - It should be noted that all Bond expenditures need to be approved by the Council so the final approval of any contract will be before Town Council.
 - The Subcommittee also voted to invite Mr. Langlais of the RI Building & Construction Trades Council to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss Project Labor Agreements for the upcoming Middle School Project.
- The Subcommittee was further informed that the School Administration was attempting to set up a meeting with RIDE to get an update on the Stage II Submission. This was prior to the School Committee meeting of March 18th in which a RIDE representative appeared before the Committee which I expect will be discussed during the next meeting of the Building Subcommittee on April 9th.



Public Safety Complex Project

Regular Update:

- We have now moved meetings from biweekly to weekly, as time is of the essence.
- We had a lengthy meeting last Wednesday in which we discussed the QDC site we are hoping to purchase for the new Public Safety Complex, and heard recommendations for potential and standard environmental and geotechnical studies to take place.
 - We discussed the needed cash flow over the next 15 months and further discussed a revised and reduced footprint to bring estimated costs down.
 - The Committee also voted to invite Mr. David Langlais of the RI Building & Construction Trades Council to attend our next meeting to discuss Project Labor Agreements for the upcoming projects.
- These meetings have been very productive and are moving along at a fast pace.
- I expect to have more in an update in my next Manager's Report.

Revolution Wind



Regular Update: Offshore Wind Farm

- We had our bi-weekly meeting with Revolution Wind the week before last, regarding their **Offshore Wind Farm** Project in Quonset Business Park.
 - Construction continues with significant work taking place in Quonset Business Park on their Onshore Substation with over 200 people working during the daytime shift there each day.
 - Work is ongoing at the Interconnection Facility as well.
 - They conducted a successful Site Emergency Drill on March 12th in coordination with Public Safety; all abutters were notified.
 - As always, anyone with questions and /or concerns is encouraged to contact Revolution Wind directly, at (401) 251-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com. All calls and how they were resolved are reported to my office.

Projects/Initiatives



Wickford Waterfront Project

- Regretfully, I don't have any significant information to share at this time regarding the Wickford Waterfront Streetscape Project other than that conversations are taking place on a regular basis regarding the current work stoppage.
 - It is in good hands with our Town Solicitor, is temporarily a legal issue, and we hope to have answers soon which will result in work commencing and the project getting back on schedule.
- I will be sure to keep the Council, public, and Wickford Village up to date.

Updates

RI Department of Transportation



- We had a meeting with RIDOT this past Thursday which included representatives of Fire, Police, Public Works, and myself to discuss the public safety concerns with the upcoming Bridge Projects.
 - As I reported, they will be working on the Frenchtown Road Bridge, South County Trail Bridge, and Devils Foot Road/Railroad Bridge over the next 15 months. Public Safety expressed concerns with their plans and RIDOT went back to the drawing board to revise their plans closures, accommodate these concerns.
 - As a result, the South County Bridge Project will not experience any closures. The Frenchtown Road Bridge Project will experience a handful of night closures but will not be closed to emergency apparatus.
 - Public Safety left this meeting more comfortable however, we agreed to continue to reviewing and pass along any concerns to RIDOT. RIDOT also expressed a willingness to meet us bi-weekly on these projects to keep us up to date.
- They also advised that the Post Road/West Main Sidewalk Project will be advertised this summer with construction planned in 2026. RIDOT is working with our Water Department to coordinate our water main replacement project along Post Road and will also be meeting with the Post Road Business Group later this spring to continue their outreach to stakeholders.
- They further advised that the mini-roundabout project will be advertised next month with construction scheduled this fall. They, at our urging and invitation, will be meeting with businesses and residents of Wickford along with Town Staff later next month or early May to hear concerns in order to assure the success of this project with minor to no disturbance.

Updates

Mayor & Manager meeting with Governor McKee



- Along with other Mayors and Managers, I recently had a lunch meeting with Governor McKee and his team at the State House.
- We spoke about the Federal Continuing Resolution which canceled all Fiscal Year 2025 Earmarks. Our communities were recommended to reapply for FY26 with what is a hopefully strong possibility for consideration.
- We discussed various legislation, primarily related to housing, and I provided my priorities to the Governor of properly financing education; continuation of the Rhode Works Program; the fact that housing isn't a 'one size fits all' issue; and unfunded mandates.
- I thought the meeting went well.

Updates



RI Interlocal Trust and Risk Management Agency

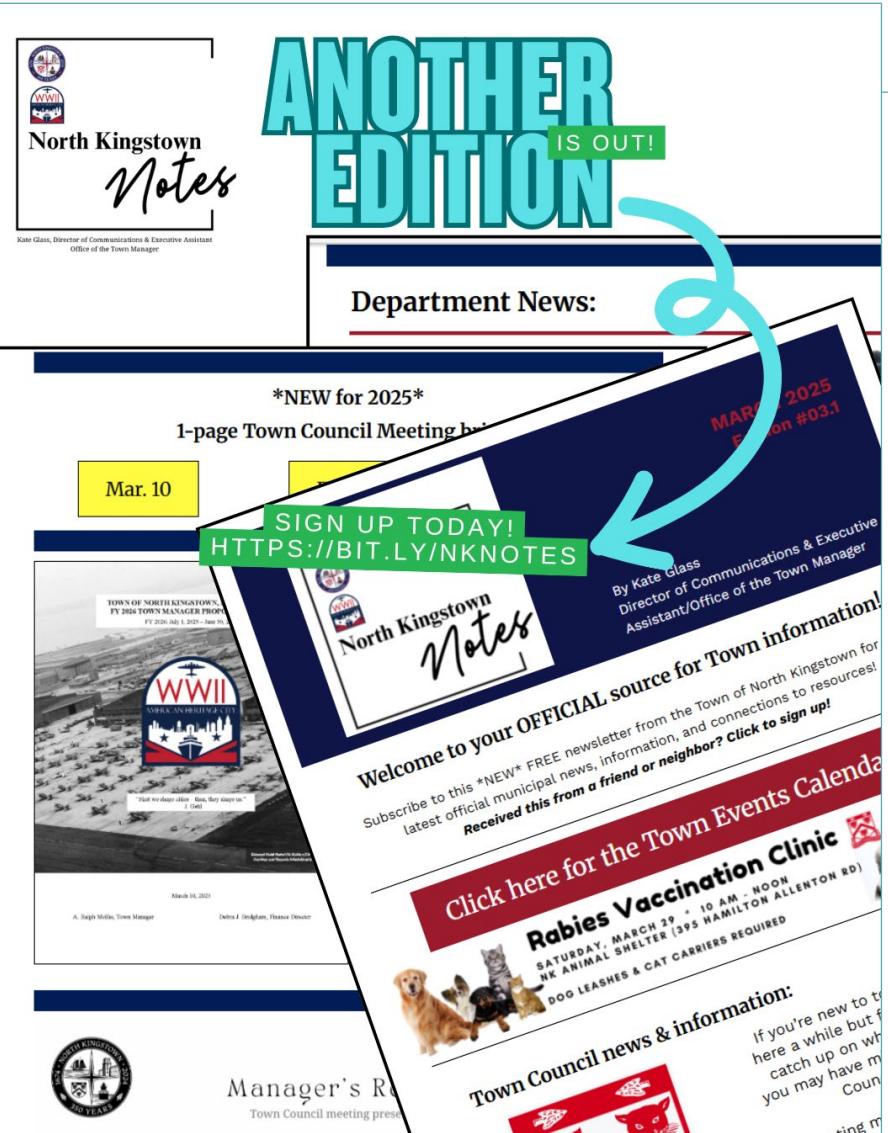
- Regretfully, we received some negative news after what I thought was a very productive and successful budget session with Town Council last week.
 - The RI Interlocal Trust has notified us that we will be experiencing a 10.6% rate increase in our Health Care Premiums, a 6.29% increase in our Dental Premiums, and a 49.39% rate increase in the Work-Related Injury component of our insurance.
 - While The Trust has notified us that these increases are less than industry trends as Blue Cross submitted a request for a 13.5% increase for their Large Group book of business to the Health Insurance Commissioner, these are much greater than we had budgeted for.
 - We are reworking numbers and I'll be back to Town Council with suggestions as to how we address this in the final budget with my hope that we will find ways to do so outside of having to raise tax revenue.
- As I've said frequently, this budget, along with next year's budget, are two of the most challenging budgets I've worked on in my many years in the public and private sectors, and we've been able to address these challenges successfully to date – and will continue to do so.



Post Road Business Alliance

- For some good news
- The Post Road Business Alliance is hosting their first-ever annual **Post Road Sidewalk Cleanup: Sunday, April 27th from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**
 - To sign up as a participant or get further details, contact the Alliance at postroadnk@gmail.com or speak with Ben Mandel in the Planning Department: bmandel@northkingstownri.gov

Reminder



North Kingstown Notes

- Another reminder to sign up for our newsletter, North Kingstown Notes: <https://bit.ly/NKNOTES>
 - The fourth edition will be in Inboxes tomorrow!
- This free, email newsletter provides the latest official Town news, information, events, and connections to municipal resources.
- I've received outreach from fellow Managers on this initiative. They've noticed it and want to do something similar in their towns.

Thank You



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