

October 7, 2024

Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



Projects

Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Farm



- Regular meetings continue.
- Their work continues on Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway Duct Bank and Interconnection Facility; community outreach also continues, including attendance and/or sponsorship at the recent events including: 350th Anniversary Family Day, Parade, Harbor Fire, and Chamber of Commerce's Savor the Sunset.
- QDC approved the request for extended working hours; we support this approval and have been assured concerns of evening light pollution, noise, and general traffic/trucks will continue to be addressed.
- Questions/Concerns? Contact Revolution Wind at (401) 255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com

RI Department of Transportation

Post Road Sidewalks
Wickford Roundabout



- We will be meeting with Rhode Island Department of Transportation again next week to discuss the upcoming Post Road/West Main Street sidewalk project.
- The Wickford Mini-Roundabout project will also be discussed.
- An update to Council will follow, and I will be sure to bring up the Route 4 traffic signal issue along with these two projects.

Projects

Wickford Elementary School Update on Sale



- Nicole LaFontaine, Director of Planning, and I met with the owners, developer, and attorney representing the entity purchasing the former Wickford Elementary School.
 - While productive, we learned that the affordable housing component of the project along with the requirement for the reduction of the number of planned units to retain some historical components of the building (chalkboard, assembly area, etc.) have provided unique challenges.
- CRMC permitting and approval is still outstanding; their application for federal tax credits is being reviewed.
 - Regretfully, it is becoming more likely that they won't close on the sale prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2025. We are working to assist them to keep the project moving forward; I will continue to update the Council.

Allen Harbor Dredging



- The Town Council recently approved the financial component for the long-awaited Dredging at Allen Harbor.
 - QDC Executive Director Steven King has confirmed that an Agreement has been ratified and is being signed; all permits to complete the dredging have been completed.
- QDC is in the process of engaging a dredging contractor to complete the project this fall.

Events

Sincere thanks and gratitude to all that were involved in an extremely successful and well-received **350th Anniversary Parade** on Saturday, October 5, especially:

- 350th Anniversary Steering Committee & Chairperson, Matt McCoy
- Kate Glass
- Chief Kettelle
- Jeannette Alyward
- DPW Staff Mike Botelho, Joe Paquette, Alex Tutsch and Kyle Wicker
- NK High School volunteers: Maili Rizzo, Siena Palermo, Addison Smith, Mia Bigelli & Aarav Puranik
- Participation in the parade from our Fire, School, Police, Public Works and Recreation Departments was great.
- Thank you to the many other community and regional groups that participated in a parade procession that was 1.5 hours long and comprised of hundreds of people representing over 100 organizations!

Next up for the 350th Anniversary: a small scale Founder's Day ceremony & Tree Dedication at Town Hall on Saturday, 10/26. More information will be announced by the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee soon.



Initiatives



- We are starting early preparations for the **FY2026 Budget** and look forward to sharing the final product of our improved Community Appropriations process resulting from suggestions of Council Members Larry Mandel and Katie Anderson.
- A result of recent Town Council Office Hours with Councilor Mandel, we are in the process of designing and placing bike racks at many parks and other municipal buildings.
- The rollout of this year's Winter Wonderland Decoration Grant Program in the Planning Department will feature some new elements and awards.
- Our IT Department launched a new Cyber Security Training Platform for employees last week with support from ITAC Committee.

Initiatives



- Superintendent Duva and I attended the recent Board Meeting for the North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce and look forward to continuing to improve and foster a positive relationship between the Chamber and the Town.
- Early Voting begins Wednesday, October 16th at our Municipal Office Building at 100 Fairway Drive.
 - That evening, there will be a School Department Building Sub-Committee meeting at the School Administration Building in Quonset Business Park.
- As confirmed in last year's budget session, we have added an "alternate" component to our Recycling Bid to include researching the cost and viability of providing trash collection for residents.
 - Our goal with this alternate component is to conduct due diligence, exploring the costs, benefits and consequences of proposed municipal trash collection.
 - Using the information received, we will present an analysis to Town Council for their final decision on the matter.

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Thank You

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager