

**Town Administrator Report**  
**August 11, 2014**

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1. Charter Revision Study Committee. Meeting was scheduled but there were not enough members present for a quorum. Prepared a matrix for review by committee that included suggested changes, current language, proposed new language, and rationale for change. Matrix included the charter revisions changes suggested by the Board of Selectmen in their charge to the committee. Another meeting will be scheduled in September.
2. Town Attorney Matters. Met with Attorney St. Onge to review Town Administrator's contract renewal, proposed conservation easement for certain land in the Quinebaug Regional Tech Park per state Environmental Impact Evaluation requirements, and the proposed quit claim deed to the Regional YMCA for the land for their new regional community family center.
3. Ash Landfill Viability Committee. Committee met and in negotiations with Wheelabrator Putnam representatives went through the latest draft dated July 8, 2014 of the First Amended and Restated Ground Lease. Committee is in the last stretch in ironing out the last remaining issues to be addressed, including how to handle the possible placement of a Metal Recovery Facility and how will it be taxed. Another meeting is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>. While the committee has been in negotiations with Wheelabrator for over seven years, the agreement's depletion fee determining how much Putnam receives every year will use an escalated adjusted fee to January 1, 2014. In another bit of news, the Wheelabrator representatives announced that Waste Management sold off the Wheelabrator division including the Putnam Ash Landfill operation to Energy Capital Partners for \$2 billion cash transaction. Transaction should not affect negotiations since ECP was made aware of negotiations and do not have a problem with how they are proceeding.
4. PRIDE. Attended monthly meeting of coalition. As the Project Director of coalition, I was able to attend the Mid-Year Training Institute in Orlando, Florida, sponsored by CADCA, the national umbrella organization of drug-free coalition communities. Since we will be entering our second year of federal grant funding in October, I concentrated on sessions dealing with coalition's sustainability beyond the 5-year federal grant period. Sessions attended included: Organizational Management for Coalitions, Principles of the Environmental Approach for the Prevention Specialist, Principles of Community Organizing, Sustainability Approaches Informed by Research and Practice, Engaging with State-Level Partners to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse, and Coalition Sustainability for Rural Communities. Another important meeting was the Drug-Free Communities Support Program Town Hall meeting where coalition staff and members had an opportunity to hear remarks from the Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. PRIDE will also be producing short video comprising comments from members and students talking about the impacts of preventing drug and alcohol abuse. Attached you will find an info sheet that I obtained at the conference identifying the value of drug-free communities using the approach of sectors of the community working together to solve local problems.

5. Handicapped Ramps Construction Bid Opening. Bids were received from four companies and the bids were as follows from low to high: Evergreen Landscaping & Construction - \$57,723, Clover Construction - \$58,673, Empire Design and Construction - \$152,019.36, and Eleuthera Associates - \$297,972. Bids included add alternates so that we will be able to do as many ramps as possible within the amount of grant funds available (federal dollars)
6. High School Project. Working with construction manager to facilitate the award of a contract to do hazardous materials abatement of the auditorium and band room which will be turned into temporary classroom space while work is being accomplished on the rest of the high school. Work was awarded under a state contract for this kind of work since work has to be accomplished before teachers and staff arrives on August 25th.
7. Board of Finance. Attended regular meeting of board to provide updates on Technology Park and various water and sewer projects.
8. WPCA. Provide any needed staff support to engineering consultants working on the following projects: water distribution system improvements (relining/replacement), manganese treatment building, sewer lift stations, and the development and filing of an application to USDA for construction of a new lift station and water lines to the Technology Park. Met with two prospective firms who are interested in submitting qualifications proposals to the WPCA to be selected as a firm that will provide operation, management and maintenance of the sewer system under a public-private partnership. Qualification proposals are due September 2.
9. QRTP. Finally received the last two pieces of approvals, Flood Management Certification and Army Corps sign off, necessary for Town to go out to bid on construction of roadway and bridge for Tech Park. Met with CME staff to review the bid documents and should know by Monday's meeting when project will be actually bid and bids opened. Negotiations are pending concerning the quit claim deed to transfer 15 acres to the YMCA. Gravel removal operation is completed.
10. Probate Court Lease. Lease and Intertown agreements have been signed and court is in process of moving to its location on Pomfret Street.
11. Student Leadership Training Program. With Romeo Blackmar attended a number of sessions of this program attended by a number of students from Putnam High School and Middle School. PRIDE through our DFC grant was able to sponsor a number of Putnam students to attend program. There is a possibility that we can bring this program to high school for a one-day session to involve more students. Based on my experience this is a very intense and productive program to instill leadership qualities in the attendees.

# Every day 4,000

12-17 year olds use drugs  
for the first time

The prevalence of youth substance use increases as their perception of harm from use decreases

## Drug-Free Communities



Since its Inception DFC has Funded More Than...

**2,000**  
Community coalitions

DFC supports **4.4 million** middle school students (age 12-14) and **6.3 million** high school students (age 15-18)

Representing **36%** of all United States youth

### Coalition Strategies

- Providing Information
- Enhancing Skills
- Changing Physical Design
- Providing Support
- Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers
- Changing Consequences
- Modifying/Changing Policies

### DFC Works!

Youth substance use has decreased among all grantees since program inception

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Marijuana

Sources:  
SAMHSA-NSDUH 2013  
Monitoring the Future 2012  
2012 DFC National Evaluation Report