

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: May 16, 2011
Re: Manager's Report

Cascade Mill

I have attached the press release we received on Friday morning regarding the closing of Patriarch Papers on the Cascade Mill. Given all the ups and downs surrounding this and other issues we have been having lately, one hesitates to get too excited. However, this is really great news for the area and hopefully is the beginning of not only getting a lot of people back to work, but also the beginning of the upswing for the area. We are due.

Patriarch plans to re-hire approximately 200 employees and resume production of the towel machine within 30 days and the other two specialty paper machines within 90 days. They plan to complete the gas line project which will make for a far more efficient operation. They are retaining Willis Blevins as the plant manager which should help greatly to ensure the success of the mill. In addition, Patriarch says that it intends to spend \$35 million over the next 12-15 months to install a tissue machine and which will result in 30 additional jobs once it is operational.

Rosenberg Memorial

If you haven't walked or driven down Hutchings (Unity) Street lately, you should do so and stop to see the Rosenberg Memorial plaque. Don Piper of Nicoletti Memorials

donated the labor and the stone the plaque is mounted on. Public Works then took that and created the nifty little collage of boulders on which the whole thing sits. It provides a very fitting and attractive memorial for one who gave the ultimate in service to his country.

Phase I Update for Burgess WWTF

Andre Caron is working with the State DES to cannot carry out a Phase I Environmental Update on the Burgess WWTF with our Coalition Grant Brownfields Funding. Such an update should allow us to make a decision relative to the acquisition of this property with minimal environmental liability. We are using GZA environmental consultants who is already state approved to do this type of work. We should have this update in about three weeks.

645 First Avenue Court Order

Attached for your information is the Court's order regarding the 155-B property of Keith and Pamela O'Day of 645 First Avenue. As you will recall this property experienced a fire and has not been occupied since. The Council approved a 155B order on it, the owners have taken no action and the Court is authorizing the City to take action to raze the property if the owners have not within 30 days.

Weekend Preservation Workshop for Rt 110

A small group gathered at City Hall Saturday morning to continue discussing the Route 110 realignment project. This was one of the City's agreed upon mitigation activities with the Division of Historic Resources related the demolition of homes for the project. The presentation included history of the neighborhood from Poof Tardif and an overview of the architecture of the homes that will be removed. There was also a review of the design Charrette held two weeks ago related to the project. NHDOT has responded positively to many of the outcomes from the Charrette and will likely work with the City to implement the ideas that make the most sense to Public Works. A final workshop will be held in September. City Planner Pam Laflamme assisted with this workshop representing the City.

Kiwanis K-Kids

Attached is a thank you note from the Kiwanis K-Kids thanking us for the opportunity clean up Community Park as part of the Kiwanis One Day project. They collected 19 bags of garbage from the Park, which needless to say keeps the parks clean and is a great help to us.

Legislative Matters

SB 3: Retirement Reform: This comprehensive retirement reform bill should be finalized by the end of May with changes to take effect no earlier than December 1, 2011. Compromises in this act remain to be worked out in a committee of conference. Of continuing question and concern here is what share the State will or will not contribute to the retirement system. In addition, the New Hampshire Retirement System Board of Trustees has voted to lower from 8.5% to 7.75% the assumed rate of return on investments that will be used to calculate employer contribution rates. The result will undoubtedly cost municipalities more in their contributions.