

City of Berlin, NH

Office of the City Manager

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

9-6-2022



1. Riverwalk is proceeding well. Paving has begun, grading and seeding will commence. The area will be finished enough to accommodate the Riverfire and Wingzilla events later this year. It is anticipated that construction will end later in October and will recommence in early 2023. This schedule will allow for long lead time items to be received – there are a few items that have long lead times. The project should be 100% complete in early 2023 – the area will be usable during the winter. It is requested that, during construction, users of this area stay on the walking paths and not the newly seeded grass and loamed areas – there have been instances where people have walked through newly graded areas, causing the area to be re graded.
2. The I/I – building demolition project is complete. Closure documents are being completed and final disbursements should be forthcoming. The project went well, all former house lots have been fenced off and seeded and look great. These lots, consistent with the grant, cannot be sold or used for any purpose other than open space.
3. At the staff lever a discussion has been held regarding the Capital Improvements Program framework. Presently there is no threshold for capital improvements and there are many items included that are not truly a capital improvement, which generally is an item with an intended life of more than five years and of a certain minimum cost, usually between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Another item missing from the plan is the demonstration of relevance of the capital item requested and the master plan – most items on the plan are directly related to the master plan. Due to the way the CIP and budget are assembled any change this year would be difficult. My question for thought – would the council like the plan and process analyzed and changed or should it be left as is? I am willing to take on the analysis and change if the council is in favor. It would require a change in how we budget for some items, moving them from the CIP to a department budget but it would not result in a bottom line increase in the total amount budgeted on any given year. (emphasis added), it would just re allocate spending for the fiscal year.