



DATE: May 21, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff and our Basalt Forward 2030 team held our kickoff meeting with the Capital Needs Committee. We went through a basic orientation and briefly reviewed the 2020 Basalt Master Plan project list and the Committee Bylaws. We have our second meeting scheduled for next Monday and will begin more discussion on prioritizing the Master Plan projects as well as include preliminary findings from the Facility Needs Study.

The public health orders have been lifted in Eagle County, including the face covering requirement. This has caused some confusion in the Eagle County side of Basalt. We have moved up the date of the discussion on our own face covering requirement as enforcement on this issue has become more difficult. Staff will recommend that we eliminate the requirement and fall back to county, state, and CDC guidance.

Police

Officer Matt Lilly is currently attending Field Training Officer (FTO) school. This will bolster our training staff for new Officers being hired as they go through a Field Training Program. Being able to have multiple Officers trained as FTOs gives us an advantage, as new Officers will be able to learn more effectively with different FTOs.

Corporal Thomas Wright, Officer Jason Hegberg, and Lt. Aaron Munch all met with School District Administrators to discuss the transition of Cpl. Wright away from being the School Resource Officer and Officer Hegberg taking over the role.

The Police Department plans to increase staffing for this coming Saturday as the High School will be holding Graduation, Prom, and then school sanctioned after-graduation/prom parties well into the evening.

Public Works

Public Works has been very busy with street cut requests. We have been working closely with St. Vincent Catholic Church to accommodate their request for a street cut permit to hook up the sewer system. It was discovered that the hook up was not where it was thought to be, and the Town was able to expedite a permit to help serve their need. We also have several residential connections requiring permits. In Willits we have a few commercial street cuts taking place.

Public Works received a walk around and training this week from CAT on the new backhoe that we just received. The CAT salesperson and a field mechanic trains our staff on every new piece of equipment that we purchase. The training teaches us about the new features of each piece of equipment and educates staff how to better care for that equipment. The training also helps extend our warranties on the equipment.

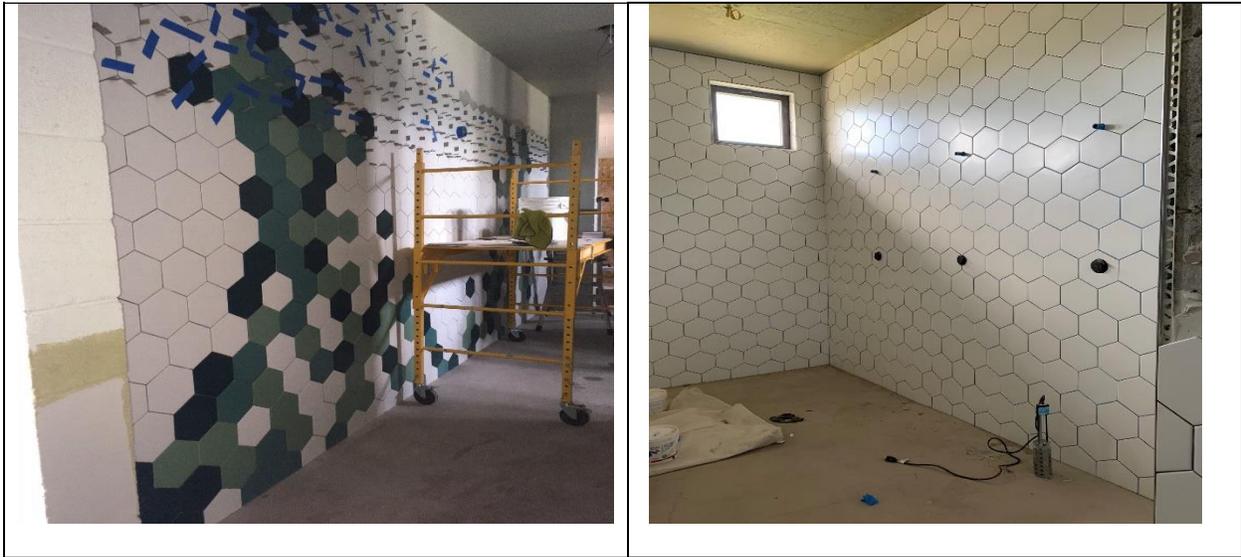
Public Works did a temporary repair on Swinging Bridge this week. The bottom of the protective side had come loose so we put zip ties as a temporary fix and ordered some coated steel wires to make a permanent repair. The Tool Cat was taken in for repair due to an internal hydraulic leak that Public Works could not repair in-house.

A new technique to our tree management includes restraint cables between the main tree branches. In the past we would see the tree split and then remove it. Now with the cable technique we can help the tree get many more years of life and increase public safety.

Planning

Arbaney Pool- The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items and details with Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design and POST on the pool renovation project. The pool and bathroom tile continues to be installed. The contractors poured the expanded pool deck and installation of an upgraded electrical service from Park Circle to the Arbaney Pool is reaching completion.





Basalt River Park Development – Staff has been reviewing entitlement documents for the River Park Development in preparation for filing them with the County Clerk and Recorder’s Office.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Staff continued to work with the Developer and consultants on addressing technical issues and preparing the plans for bidding Phase I of the project for construction. Staff met with the River Park Applicant and their contractor to review the pricing that they received for the Two Rivers Road improvements associated with the River Park.

Two Rivers Road Improvements – Staff is bringing the contract to Council on May 25th for authorization of the Two Rivers Road improvements. Staff has been working to finalize details of this project. FCI Constructors along with United Companies are planning to start the road project the week of May 31st.

Fiber Project – Staff continued to have discussion with Holy Cross and HR Green regarding the installation of fiber infrastructure in conjunction with several construction projects.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – Staff has been coordinating with Holy Cross and neighboring properties on the extension of fiber to the proposed future Public Works site. Staff presented the Public Works development proposal to the P&Z on May 18th and the P&Z recommended approval. Staff will now prepare for their meeting with Town Council on June 8th.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Financial Aid Committee met to review tuition assistance applications. While a number of applications exceeded the income limit, the Committee was able to fund eight children in participating Basalt programs through the end of the year. The Committee will reopen the application in August to requalify a couple of applicants and to open funding for additional families should it be available. A subcommittee also met prior to the Financial Aid Committee to work on the Needs Assessment, with the idea to piggy-back on a recent survey developed by Kids First and also offered by Snowmass Village. Staff has verified with Aspen that we can use this survey, with a couple of additional questions. The Coalition believes that the general consistency of questions throughout different areas of the Valley will lead to a better regional understanding of early childcare needs.

BPAC – Staff continues working to implement BPAC’s 2021 projects, including murals around town, painted barriers around expanded outdoor seating, and virtual studio tours. The completion of most of the planned murals should happen in the next few weeks.

Development Review/Applications - Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with the construction activities. Additionally, Staff has been working on numerous administrative development review applications that take Staff time but that do not require review by the P&Z or Town Council. Staff also spent time on responding to complaints, working on land use applications, including conducting the completeness review on the application proposed on the BCC Property (former Clark’s Market).

Events –The Basalt Half Marathon and Relay is scheduled for June 6. The Town is reviewing the special event activity permits submitted by the Basalt Regional Library for their summer activities. Many more smaller gatherings in Town parks are planned and being reviewed by the Planning Department.

Basalt East Entrance Sign – Bids are due today, May 21st for the East Entrance Sign. The Town and the Chamber Sign Committee are hopeful of receiving bids in line with their budget, and to have the sign installed this year.

Recreation

Staff and the pool manager have been working through online pool chemical and operations training.

We are set to test on Tuesday May 25th to become Certified Pool Operators, CPOs.

Recreation league baseball and softball are slowly coming along. 5-6 y/o T-Ball, 9-10 baseball, and 11-13 softball all have secured coaches and rosters. We are still in need of volunteer coaches for 7-8 coach pitch baseball and 11-12 kid pitch baseball. The season will start on June 7th and run for 8 weeks.

Staff is coordinating with Aspen Recreation for use of the ARC to teach Lifeguarding and Water Safety Instructor (swim instructor) offerings while we await the opening of the Arbaney Park Pool.

Staff has reached out to American Ramp Company for a progress report for the new features at Gisella Fiou Skate Park. American Ramp has held to their tentative delivery date of late June for delivery and installation.