



DATE: August 12, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Improvement to the Basalt Whitewater Park will be made starting next week and are expected to take approximately six weeks to complete. Some minor improvement will be done to the in-stream features to enhance the two wave structures. The other improvements will mostly be upstream at the Fisherman's Park. The improvements include improved trailer parking on the shoulders of Two River's Road, improvements, including installation of a concrete ramp for the boat launch and a raised boardwalk that will connect Fisherman's Park to the downstream area where the wave structures are located. The entire area, including Fisherman's Park parking and restrooms will be closed for the duration of the project.

We received word from the Forest Service this week that the long-planned logging project up the Frying Pan is going to begin soon. According to a Forest Service representative, the mobilization will begin in the next few weeks, likely somewhere between the 18th and 26th. After the initial mobilization, they will be logging for a few weeks, and we will not see much additional traffic. Once the logs are cut, they will bring in a grinder chipper and start filling "chip vans" with chips to haul over to the biomass power generation plant in Gypsum. We can expect that this will include 5 – 10 loads per day. That means 10 – 20 trips per day when you consider their arrival and departure. We asked about the "vans" and they sound like they are semi sized vehicles. The person we spoke with believed the permit did not allow work to occur on the weekends or on holidays. The duration of the project is currently scheduled to go through December. An extension can be requested but one is not anticipated at this time. The area they are logging is approximately 80 acres which is a smaller area than was originally anticipated for this project. Finally, the FS will be issuing a press release soon with more details.

Police

Our household and prescription medication takeback box collected 48.1 pound in the last six months. Since we began this program, in May 2018, we have collected and safely destroyed 363.36 pounds of medications. If you have old medications at your home or business, we are happy to collect and safely destroy them. Just bring them by the Police Department and drop them in the box.



The Victims Assistance and Law Enforcement Board met and awarded \$1162.75 to three applicants. Two awards, totaling \$562.75, were awarded for thefts that occurred. \$600.00 was awarded to a victim of a hit and run traffic crash.

Jason Hegberg is back in the schools as our assigned School Resource Officer. Teachers also came back this week and students will begin next week. Jason held training sessions at all three schools to instruct staff on Standard Response Protocols (SRP). SRP provides guidance on school security, lockdowns, evacuations, and shelter-in-place. These protocols are being used at all schools in the Roaring Fork School District.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle (BCC) Application – The Applicant submitted a final plan application and Staff referred it out to the Town’s referral agencies for review. The Planning and Zoning Commission completed their review of the BCC Final Plan Application. Town Council provided their initial review and continued the public hearing to July 26th. The Application received first reading approval on July 26th and has been continued to August 23rd for 2nd reading.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Town Council approved a contract with Burlingame Construction and ID Sculptures for construction of the bandshell. The bus shelter/restroom facility is out for bid and bids for construction are due August 17th, a first addendum to the bid package was issued this week. Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL is well underway. RMCL has installed the irrigation and planted a good portion of the trees and perennials. RMCL is working on preparing the great lawn for sod by scarifying the ground and placing topsoil.

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – The Design Team and Town staff, have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. The Design Team has been meeting with various stakeholder groups, and the owners/managers of the properties along Midland to gain their input. Staff and the Design Team held meetings at Town Hall on July 22nd and July 27th to obtain more input from owners/managers of properties along Midland Avenue. Work sessions with P&Z and Town Council were held this week to review the preferred alternative design. P&Z and Council provided direction to continue working on a design of the preferred conceptual plan. The Design Team and Planning Staff also met with emergency service representatives this week to start to work through their comments on the preferred alternative.

Green Initiatives and the Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project –Staff and McKinstry continue to work with Holy Cross Energy, the School District, CORE and members of the Green Team on the project. McKinstry has provided a cost/benefit analysis on a handful of sites for review. McKinstry made a presentation to staff and representatives of the School District to discuss preferred options, the preferred options are now being developed to a 30% design level in preparation for seeking grant funding for the project.

Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

Basalt River Park Development LLC – A full building permit was issued on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the affordable housing units.

Development Review/Applications – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications and building permits.

Willits PUD Amendment Application- The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed an application for a PUD Amendment to permit a retail marijuana store in the Willits General Store Building and made a recommendation to the Town Council. The Application was approved on first reading at the July 26th Council meeting. Council is scheduled to review the application on second reading at the August 23rd meeting.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 –Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with permitting of the building. The building has been ordered, potholing and utility connections are underway. The plumbing for the building’s drain system was installed this week.



Green Team – Staff attended a Zoom meeting of the Mountain Region Beneficial Electrification group. The next meeting and thereafter the group will transition from being administered by Walking Mountains Science Center to Energy Smart Colorado. Attendees discussed their own community initiatives, and Staff reported out on the Basalt Incentives Rebate Program and proposed Building Code amendments. Noting the lack of contractors trained and available in this region for the installation of heat pumps, NWCCOG is considering ways to bring in contractors from other regions for bulk work in this area of Colorado, as well as ideas for funding to bring down the cost of heat pumps and their installation.

Water Utility Master Plan – Town staff issued an RFP for the development of a Basalt Water Utility Master Plan which will serve to inform the planning of capital improvements, operations and maintenance, and rate increases that may be necessary to help fund the water enterprise. Staff extended the proposal due date by one week, proposals are now due on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

Linear Park Irrigation – Town staff received two bids for the rebuilding of the Linear Park irrigation system. The project was awarded to RMCL during Tuesday night’s Town Council meeting.

Public Works

Chris Beiser, the Town’s arborist, has just completed an inventory of the Town’s arboretum. The inventory is periodically updated along with labeling the trees as a requirement of the Town’s arboretum accreditation.

Public Works staff are in the middle of the budget process for the year. We have met and discussed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and we are now meeting with individual staff to discuss their budget needs.

The fire alarm system in the BC Building, where the Town has affordable housing units, was tested recently and a dishwasher was replaced in one of the units this week.

Other ongoing projects include the Pinion Tanks rehabilitation, paving preparation at Stotts Mill and foundation preparation at the new public works facility. A steel plate was installed over a failing irrigation culvert on Willits Lane until a permanent repair can be done.

Staff has been working with Pitkin County and other Town staff regarding coordination for the traffic and other construction planning related to the conduit and fiber installation that is funded through a grant from the State. Construction for this project will begin in the next few weeks.