



TOWN OF WARREN, RHODE ISLAND
Office of Planning & Community Development

514 Main Street, Warren, Rhode Island 02885-4369
(401) 289-0529 brulli@townofwarren-ri.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Town Council Members and Town Manager
From: Bob Rulli, Director
Re: Warren Times Article-May 29, 2019
Date: 5/29/19

Below is a summary of latest update of projects that I submitted as part of my Around Town submissions to the Warren Times.

Around Town

Since it has been a few months since my last dispatch from Town Hall, with summer approaching I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on some of the things happening in Warren.

Park Street Drainage Project

Permitting for this project is underway, the Town's Engineers are working on preparing the construction specifications in advance of the project going out to bid. The Town is working with the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District on public outreach which will involve providing information on the project to residents, as well as a public meeting this summer to discuss the benefits of the project.

Warren Boulevard Drainage Project

The Town's Engineers are also preparing the construction specifications for this project in advance of going out to bid. This project is also scheduled to commence this summer. The Town is working with Save The Bay on public outreach and more details regarding scheduling and the scope of work will be provided in the next few weeks.

Solar Installation at Town Landfill

Although the actual construction has not yet begun, preliminary work necessary to be completed prior construction is nearly completion. Green Development who the Town selected to develop the project has been working with National Grid to finalize the necessary agreements to connect to Grid's infrastructure. Additionally, Green has been working with RI DEM on the actual closure/capping of the former landfill. This week survey crews will be delineating the wetlands on the site and then completing the remaining survey work. Once completed the Town will utilize electricity from the site for approximately 80 percent of the Town's usage at Town owned buildings resulting in an average savings of \$100 thousand dollars per year for the next 20 years.

East Bay Bike Path at Railroad Avenue

Work is about to commence on improving the area at the corner of Child Street and Railroad Avenue along the East Bay Bike Path. The Town received grant monies last year from the RI Commerce

Corporation as part of its Main Street Improvement Program. An enlarged seating area, safety improvements, signage, benches and bike racks will be installed over the next several months.

Broken Bridge Project

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation is in the final permitting and design stages for the State's first carbon fiber bridge over the Kickemuit River. Funded through the Safe Routes to School Program the completed bridge will benefit students, bikers and walkers. A connection to the Warren Bike Path will also be a welcome result.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Anyone who has traveled down the southern end of Water Street will have seen the flurry of construction activity at the wastewater treatment plant. This \$20 million-dollar upgrade and improvement project is now more than 50 percent complete with a completion date in early 2020. The design and improvements to protect against sea level rise, storm surge and the inclusion of coastal resiliency protections have been the subject of several recent magazine articles, as well as a piece on air this summer on NPR's Weekend Edition.

Economic Development Board

Earlier this year the Town Council increased the membership of the Warren Economic Development Board from seven to nine members. With many new members bringing fresh ideas and energy look for an upcoming Employment Opportunities event in partnership with Hope & Main and the East Bay Manufacturers Association, as well as a Women's Empowerment Symposium,

A couple of other noteworthy items to mention. The Town was selected by Grow Smart Rhode Island for best Outstanding Smart Growth Policy Award. Town Council President Keri Cronin, Town Manager Kate Michaud and I had the privilege of being recognized on the floor of the Rhode Island State Legislature thanks to Rep. June Speakman and Rep. Jason Knight. To see a YouTube video of the award, use this link - <https://youtu.be/qbcEmTyv6Ws>. The Town in partnership with the Town of Barrington was one of five communities chosen to participate in a Municipal Resiliency Program sponsored by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and The Nature Conservancy. Look for an upcoming Saturday workshop this September focused on coastal resiliency preparation.

With the warmer weather, be sure to get outside and enjoy all that Warren has to offer. Many of our unique locally owned businesses are anxious to meet you and to share their stories of why they chose Warren.