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OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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TO: SELECTBOARD  
FROM: PETE WEBSTER, TOWN MANAGER  
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT  
DATE: FEB. 4, 2009

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This will be another relatively short report, as my last report was submitted just over a week ago. Since the last Selectboard meeting on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, herewith is a brief summary of my activities:

I met with members of the Norwich Energy Committee (Chair Alan Berolzheimer, Ames Byrd and others) who are looking into a Clean Energy Development Fund grant of up to \$5000 to assess the Town's renewable energy resources. Discussion of a possible wind turbine on Gile Mountain and various solar opportunities were discussed. I met with Chuck Wise and Peter Gregory (Two Rivers Regional Planning Agency), Sue Clark (AOT), Neil and Phil to go over the proposed lane closure experiment. I will have more detail on this for your Wednesday meeting. I will continue to meet with Lucy Gibson and the Transportation Committee to get their input on this corridor project. We might not be able to achieve every goal that we might want, but we also don't want to jeopardize the funding and lose it completely, which is a possibility if we push too hard, according to Curtis Johnson from AOT. The bids for this should be going out in September for a 2010 completion.

Thursday evening I met with about a dozen residents who came through the Norwich Inn between 5-7 pm, and I believe this was a good first effort. I hope this will become a regular monthly feature, and I am happy to make myself available in this format as long as there is any public interest. After that meeting, I headed to the Montshire Museum for the final hour and a half discussion into the future plans for the Upper Valley area ("**20-20 Vision for the Valley**"), hosted by the League of Women Voters. I believe Sarah was there for the entirety of the discussions, and can share her thoughts on this gathering.

The following week I returned to the Montshire Museum and spent about 45 minutes touring the museum. I had the opportunity to meet with their marketing manager, Beth Krusi. We discussed ways in which they can improve upon their annual draw of about 150,000 visitors each of the past few years, driving visitors into downtown Norwich and working together better. The museum is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in their Norwich location, this fall.

I met with both Andy and Doug to go over the proposals for the new union contract. We spent some time laying out strategy and trying to anticipate how this negotiation might proceed.

I think you know I've joined the Hanover Rotary Club, which meets every Wednesday at noon. I have proposed to their board of directors a program that I've been involved with over the years in two other Rotary clubs; namely, a program that distributes dictionaries to our local Third Graders. I've run this by Linda Kelly, and she is thrilled at the prospect of the 36 Marion Cross third graders each receiving their first very own dictionaries. That will happen within the next couple of weeks, as soon as the books are delivered.

Andy and I spent about 2 hours touring all the roads off Beaver Meadow, so I could become more familiar with the challenges facing our Town highway crew. We've tried to do this the past three weeks, but the unrelenting storms have complicated and delayed those plans. We plan to do similar tours of New Boston, Turnpike and Union Village Roads in the next couple weeks. The road network in this Town is significantly more challenging than what I was used to in both Dorset and Manchester, due to the terrain and the many long, dead end roads serving the more rural areas.

I again met with Charles Egbert (also Neil and Dennis) to go over his bandstand plans. Both Neil and Dennis have given their thoughts on the drawings, and the four of us met to go over the bid package. I have received seven calls thus far from interested builders, and have not yet proactively reached out to some of our local contractors. I continue to hope we'll get a number of quality bids.

I was interviewed on CATV by one of our residents, Bob Franzoni, who is very knowledgeable about Norwich issues, having served on the Planning Commission many years ago and more recently on the Town Manager committee. This 20-25 minute interview is for an upcoming piece they are doing on all the Upper Valley towns, and think it went reasonably well.

That's about it, and I look forward to our meeting Wednesday evening.

Sincerely,

Pete Webster