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Kevin L. Sutherland
Town Manager
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MEMORANDUM

To: Bar Harbor Town Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Kevin Sutherland, Town Manager
Date: May 3, 2022
Re: Manager Comments

Professional Municipal Clerks Week

This week is Professional Municipal Clerks Week. I want to recognize Liz Graves our Town Clerk and Lynn Higgins, our Deputy Clerk for their professionalism, their 'can do' attitudes, and incredible ability to juggle the workload. I am so thankful I get to work with them on a daily basis.

Community Action Grant Awarded

Bar Harbor (in partnership with Mount Desert and Tremont) have been awarded \$91,722 for a Community Action Grant through the [State's Community Resilience Partnership](#) program. More on the program was shared in the [3/22 manager update memo](#) when we had submitted our application, but the projects focus on Climate Action Plan Community Engagement and Public EV Charger implementation. We should be receiving our funding in early summer and can begin implementing our projects and programs!

Glen Mary Wading Pool

Unfortunately, the Glen Mary Wading Pool will be closed for the 2022 season and very likely the 2023 season. There are numerous issues that have developed and the pool will need extensive and expensive repairs before it can be placed back in operation. For example, the underground pipes that cycle the water to and from the pool for treatment in the pump house are damaged. This is likely due to the abnormal freeze-thaw cycles experienced over the last two springs. The long-standing issue of groundwater intrusion into the pool also needs to be addressed at this time. Once these issues are corrected, the entire surface will need to be repaved. Although the Town had hoped spot repairs would offer a band aid until a full restoration was funded in the Town's budget; the damage is too extensive.

Given the closure, we are presented with the opportunity to decide, as a community, as to whether or not the Glen Mary Wading Pool should be rebuilt as a wading pool or, whether it should become a summer splash pad or other community input driven use.

We recognize that many conversations need to take place with the community in order to understand what new facility(s) will serve the community best. The Town of Bar Harbor asks for your patience and understanding as we undertake this important process. The Parks and Recreation Committee and Town staff will be initiating a community conversation in the near future.

Maine Conservation Corps – Environmental Steward

Working with the leadership from the Climate Emergency Task Force, we interviewed several candidates and made offers to bring on an AmeriCorp volunteer for 900 hours this summer and fall. Currently, none of the candidates we were interested in bringing on have worked out – housing being one of the challenges. We're continuing to work with the Main Conservation Corp to explore other candidates for a June start, but we're also considering an internship opportunity for an undergraduate student for the College of the Atlantic for the summer.

Summer Pilot Internship Program for Sustainable Leaders

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center established a “Summer Pilot Internship Program for Sustainability Leaders” in the spring of 2022. The intention of the program is to provide support to our community partners as we collaboratively address sustainability challenges—while simultaneously providing students with practical experience and important opportunities for transdisciplinary research engagement.

The Summer Pilot Internship Program for Sustainability leaders provides graduate and undergraduate interns with training in science communication, transdisciplinary research and methods for stakeholder engagement. In addition, the pilot program will provide financial support to interns for six weeks between May 15th and June 30th, 2022. Community partners, like Bar Harbor, can extend the internship later into the summer by matching funds.

In the programs first year, Bar Harbor has been fortunate to get partnered with student interns. The project is title: Tackling an Unsustainable Waste Stream to Protect a National Treasure and is intended to help Bar Harbor prepare a pilot program to develop a reusable take out container system for restaurants. The visibility of the island sustainability efforts combined with tourism can be leveraged into an opportunity to educate and normalize reuse.