



DATE: May 15, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff is brainstorming ideas for the Basalt Bucks idea and there will likely be some changes from the last time we did this over 10 years ago. The basic concept will be similar which is to provide money to residents to be used in our local restaurants and retail establishments. The changes will be on the administrative side, trying to make this program as efficient for business owners and staff. We should have the concept ready for Council on the 26th.

Staff met with the Chamber and TACAW this week to discuss summer events and how we might approach a kick-off event to compliment the release of the Basalt Bucks program. We have some great ideas that would allow safe gatherings (under 50 people) and be able to provide fun entertainment throughout our commercial districts with restaurants and retail.

Staff followed up on the report of minor flooding that resulted from the storm on Monday evening. Basalt received .8" of rain and 1.2" higher on Basalt Mountain. With that much rain, we fared well but one property in the bottom of the natural flow path along Sopris Drive had some ponding in the yard. Town staff added some roto milled asphalt in front of the "pigs" or concrete blocks to help with the seepage that appeared to be the main contributor to the flooding that occurred.

Town staff has also met to plan for the re-opening of restaurants that will likely occur later this month. We will be reaching out to the owners once we receive updated information from the state regarding liquor licensing rules. That information is expected to come out today sometime (fingers crossed). The idea is to work with restaurants to determine if they need or want additional outdoor seating. There will be a process to change the licensed premise for liquor consumption and a need to get any additional area insured so the public is protected from liability. Our goal is to make any changes as expeditious as we can so restaurants can concentrate on the inevitable adjustments to their new business model.

Our Town recreation department has been in regular communication with our regional partners to try and coordinate efforts regarding summer activities. This is still an ongoing discussion and we expect that our recreation offering will be limited. The pool is included in this and may be open by reservation only and limited to five families. This would not be permitted until we reach the "Black Diamond" phase of the Transition Trail Map. The earliest this would occur is in late June.

Public Works

Public Works did some minor cleanup after the heavy rain at the beginning of the week. There was some gravel that was washed out of driveways and onto the streets that we swept up. We did some minor repair on a flood prevention barricades that needed some more material added to the base. Overall, there was little damage.

Public Works hired a contractor to clean the specialized storm water containment system in Willits. The system needs to be maintained on a regular basis and it takes a jet and vacuum truck to service the system. Public Works does not have the equipment needed to do the cleaning.

The Town's annual crack sealing maintenance was completed this week. The contractor did a good job and now we can move on to the next phase of annual maintenance, the resurfacing of streets.

The Planning and Public Works Departments are working with the Roaring Fork Conservancy to assist with the annual river clean up. The event will be a weeklong instead of one day so that people can spread out and take their time. The Town provides a dumpster and Eagle County assists with picking up trash bags along the river.

Finance

This week was mostly taken up with the virtual audit fieldwork for our annual financial audit. The audit has been more time consuming this year, because of the need to scan all documents to our auditors, but it has gone well so far. We should have some results on potential audit recommendations shortly. The audit was even more thorough than it was last year, which is helpful for the Town to know that our auditors are double-checking many aspects of the Town's business to be sure we are in compliance with accounting standards.

The Finance Advisory Board met on Wednesday night, and they have been apprised of the same Town financial projections for 2020 as Council. We also reviewed a new draft quarterly report format to be used for the first quarter financial statements. They will be meeting next Thursday evening to review the quarterly report and determine their involvement in the reporting of that information to Council. They have recommended the addition of some great graphs that will help with the readability of the report for the public. Additionally, they are in the process of finalizing the Town's draft investment policy, which will be reviewed with Council shortly.

Police

The Thursday Basalt food distribution site provided 10,000 pounds of food to 350 families. No one was turned away due to lack of food. The Wednesday food donation site continues to be operational from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. People who wish to donate food can go to the middle school during these hours. The food distribution site plans to be open through the end of June.

This week the police department began conducting VIN and Certified VIN inspections at our office. VIN inspections will be completed for anyone who needs one. Certified VIN's will be conducted for Basalt residents only.

The police department received a \$1759 grant, from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, to outfit our officers with Narcan. Narcan is an opioid reversal medication. Officers carry two doses with them to administer if an opioid overdose occurs. This is the second year our officers have been equipped by grant funds. Since we began this program, we have not had to administer Narcan.

Planning

Willits Town Center – Considerable time this week was spent working on construction related items, such as parking by construction workers, building permit reviews for TACAW and Block 11 North.

Other Development Review/Applications – Work continues on other development applications, such as St. Vincent Church’s planned expansion and a car-wash application in Southside.

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – After Town Council’s approval of BPAC’s grant recommendations and proposal for a new Artist Relief Program, Staff has begun working on contracts for the grantees and preparing to launch the relief fund.

Basalt Affordable Community Housing (BACH) – BACH presented to Town Council on Tuesday with information regarding rental assistance programs in Eagle and Pitkin Counties. In addition to the information presented to council on Tuesday, Eagle County residents are encouraged to find more information regarding Eagle County’s assistance at www.swifteagle.org.

Basalt Green Team – At Monday’s meeting the Green Team focused its conversation on the Basalt Pool project and the Green Team’s recommendation to POST on the best program to satisfy the Town’s Green goals and meet the energy demands of the pool.

Basalt Sunday Market – Staff is continuing to work with Eagle County on a plan for the 2020 Basalt Sunday Market. The Town has received applications from 37 potential vendors. Staff is working on reconfiguring the vendors and exploring the potential to expand into the grassy area between Town Hall and the Art Base buildings for additional space. Staff’s goal is to finalize a plan soon for a discussion with the Town Manager.

POST – The Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Committee met on Wednesday and heard updates on various projects and prepared for its June meetings with Town Council regarding Arbaney Park and other items.

2020 Census – The Census Bureau is resuming field operations. This is important for Basalt, because a sizable portion of the Town does not get official invitations to participate from the Bureau, but instead has invitations with the personalized code delivered to their door during field operations. Currently Basalt’s estimated response rate is 49%, compared to 62% in Colorado. Respondents have until October 31st to respond to the Census.

Other – Staff worked with the building official to prepare information requested by the State on Basalt building activity for the State’s use in updating population estimates. Staff also worked on several special events including the car parade after High School Graduation, and outdoor seating for restaurants with the Town Manager and other Town Staff.

