
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: March 13, 2023

Town Manager Maria Capriola to Resign

On behalf of the Town of Simsbury, I want to thank Simsbury Town Manager Maria Capriola for her more than five years of service and wish her well in her new position.

As the first Town Manager following the charter revision change in Simsbury's form of government, Ms. Capriola was critical in helping the town staff and the volunteers on all boards and commissions through this transition. As our form of government evolves, we will learn from each experience and find ways to build on the level of service and commitment we provide to our residents and businesses. As we begin our search for a new Town Manager, I know we are all committed to finding an experienced leader with a vision for our town that will bring Simsbury into the future.

We have a great town leadership team in place that we will help through this transition so that we can continue providing the highest level of service from our dedicated town staff. Whatever we can do to support our valued employees during this time, we will do.

We are already at work to find an Interim Town Manager and to set up an executive search committee. As this is happening during our very important budget sessions, rest assured we will stay focused on these important tasks for our employees, residents, and businesses.

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/home/news/town-manager-maria-capriola-to-resign-from-service>

Cannabis Ordinance Prohibiting Retail Sales

The BOS voted 4-2 at our meeting on February 27th to prohibit any retail cannabis outlet from opening in Simsbury for 18 months (approx. Sept 2024).

(Please follow Zoning Commission meetings and minutes for further information on regulations being done regarding cannabis.)

FY 2023/2024 Budget Process

~~Done BOS Budget Workshop – Town Hall Main Meeting Room~~

~~Part 1 – 3/9/2023 5:30pm~~

~~Part 2 – 3/11/2023 9:00am~~

WE ARE HERE >>>

BOS Meeting – Continued Workshop discussions 3/13/2023 6:00pm Town Hall Main Meeting Room

BOS Special Meeting – Continued Budget Discussion– 3/15/2023 6:00pm

BOS Budget presentation to BOF – 3/21/2023 5:45 (location TBD)

BOF Public Hearing on the Budget – 4/4/2023 6:00pm Simsbury Public Library

Budget Referendum – May 2023

Granby-Simsbury Chamber of Commerce

Thank you to the Granby-Simsbury Chamber of Commerce for another successful Annual Business Leader's Breakfast, which this year had Governor Ned Lamont as one of its special guest speakers. It was great to have him in Simsbury, meeting members of our business community.


Updates from our Budget Workshop Discussions

The updates on these two projects were discussed during our budget workshop on Sat, March 11th. They are BOS priorities and have run into some issues and are described below.

- Pickleball Courts in Tariffville are most likely going to be delayed a season, as we wait for the new and updated FEMA flood maps to become 'official'. The current maps have the proposed courts in a floodway, which prohibits us building new courts there. This project was funded and approved in the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year Budget. Given the delay, Culture, Parks, and Rec Director Tom Tyburski told us the town will add lines for the remaining 2 courts at the Farms, to add more courts. Stay tuned.
- Two of the stone pillars that we have leading into Simsbury, are moving forward with their replacement, but the Tariffville one has faced issues, given the proposed placement on state roads, according to Public Works Director- Town Engineer Tom Roy. This pillar funding was made available by the Simsbury 350th Anniversary Committee, who directly asked to fund a pillar replacement. We recommended using this funding for Tariffville. Stay tuned.

CRCOG FORUM on ECG/Multi Use Trail

The Capital Region Council of Governments has asked us to hold a forum to discuss the East Coast Greenway as it progresses and makes its way into Tariffville Center. This has been scheduled for March 30th in the Tariffville Cafeteria. Please join us if you would like to learn more about what is happening with the 3 sections of trail, connecting Tariffville to Simsbury Center, and Simsbury to Hartford.



**CAPITOL REGION
EAST COAST
GREENWAY STUDY**
SIMSBURY — BLOOMFIELD — HARTFORD — EAST HARTFORD

**BIKE PATH PLAN
INFORMATIONAL
MEETING**

March 30th, 2023
6 PM - 8 PM
**Tariffville Elementary
School**
42 Winthrop St
Tariffville, CT 06081

CAN'T ATTEND?
Visit the Project Website:
crcog.org/capital-region-ecg-study
Send your questions, comments, or
accommodation requests to:
Phil Goff, AICP
PGoff@VHB.com

CRCOG's Capital Region East Coast Greenway (ECG) Study is exploring alternatives to close off-road gaps in the ECG route through the Capital Region. Currently, uncertainties in the trail route exist in Simsbury, Bloomfield, Hartford, and East Hartford.

The study will examine potential routes and conclude with the selection of a final alternative for all remaining gaps. The study will also evaluate costs and benefits of route options including but not limited to:

- Environmental impacts
- Property ownership
- Waterbodies and courses
- Construction
- Trail attractiveness
- Usability & safety
- Job access & public transit
- Geographic & community equity

CRCOG does not discriminate on the basis of disability or language. Individuals may request auxiliary aids and/or language assistance by contacting 860-658-3222 as soon as possible.

CRCOG  **FHI studio** 

Be safe in the upcoming storm but get consolation in the extra light that points to SPRING.
Wendy

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: March 13, 2023

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

At this time, there are no counties in Connecticut considered to be “high” according to the CDC Community Levels categorization. In Hartford County, community levels of transmission are “medium”, as determined by the CDC. The CDC recommends that if you are at high risk for severe illness, talking to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and taking other precautions. The CDC has recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19. For additional information on the CDC Community Levels of Transmission, please click on this link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>.

The federal government is again offering free COVID test kits. Each household is eligible to order 4 kits. You can order the kits at: [COVID.gov/tests - Free at-home COVID-19 tests](#)

The Farmington Valley Health District is now booking COVID-19 vaccine appointments for individuals ages 18 and older. You can schedule online @ <https://fvhd.org/vaccination> or by phone at 860-352-2333 (calls received 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday). Bring insurance information and proof of prior vaccination (if applicable) to your appointment, located at 95 River Road Suite A, Canton, CT 06019.

WINTER WEATHER UPDATE

Town staff is regularly reviewing and evaluating the impact of the anticipated storm. Should any delayed openings or closures of Town facilities be needed, updates will be provided through the Town website, e-subscriber notification system, and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

As a reminder, parking on public roadways is prohibited any time snow operations are in progress. Residents are also reminded to keep garbage and recycling cans out of the road and in their driveways to ensure that snow plows have clear road access. In addition, in order to ensure that fire department personnel can respond in the event of an emergency, residents are asked to clear snow away from fire hydrants.

Thank you, and stay safe!

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS

As a reminder, should the Board need more time after tonight’s meeting to discuss and adopt the FY 23/24 budget there is a regularly scheduled meeting for Wednesday evening, March 15th at 6:00PM. If the budget is adopted tonight, we will go ahead and cancel that meeting.

Once the FY 23/24 Budget is approved by the Board of Selectmen it will go to the Board of Finance for their discussion at their March 21, 2023 meeting.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Information Technology: Michael Perrone has started as the Town's new Information Technology Support Specialist Michael brings the department and Town over 12 years of IT experiences as a Support Specialist on various hardware and software platforms. Michael has his Bachelor's in Business Management/MIS from Southern Connecticut State University, as well as multiple certifications in the IT field. Congratulations and welcome to Michael!