

# MAYOR'S REPORT

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Town of Phillipsburg is updating the Circulation Plan as part of its Master Plan. The last time the Circulation Plan was updated was in 2004 when Phillipsburg conducted a comprehensive overhaul of its Master Plan. The updated Circulation Plan will address the issues regarding pedestrian, bicycle, trail, truck, parking, public transportation, and automotive modes of circulation within the Town, how they connect together, and assess where the Town of Phillipsburg may be lacking or needs to improve. As part of this process, the Project Team developing this Circulation Plan is requesting that members of the public participate in a "Walkability Audit" where the team will take comments from the public and integrate them into the report. To do this efficiently, the team has selected 4 key pedestrian walking routes that experience the highest volumes of foot-traffic and will walk them together with review forms. These dates have been shared on the website and our social media page.

Smoke testing continues on the wastewater system-a number of irregularities have been identified in the system already which will be repaired, saving ratepayers money by eliminating infiltration and inflow to our system. Areas that have been tested to date include portions of Hillcrest, Pursel Hill and the upper section of the Heckman Street area of town. Notices will continue to be posted prominently on the front doors of homes and business in the affected areas. Any residents with questions or concerns should contact the Department of Public Works or the Town Engineer. Additionally the Town currently has 15 flow meters installed at key points in the sanitary sewer systems. The flow metering is to help identify and prioritize sewer regions needing system improvements, to eliminate extraneous flows entering the sewers from stormwater or groundwater. This study is to address EPA requirements.

Our contractor commenced previously scheduled wastewater system repairs on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> and is currently working on addressing repairs in the area of Columbus Avenue and Thomas Street. These repairs are to ensure the proper operation of our sewers and will enable the road surface to be repaved at the conclusion of the repairs. Further with regard to road paving my Administration has submitted a request for authorization to award a contract to South State for the 2022 Road program that would commence later this year upon completion of sewer repairs.

Finally on the subject of wastewater issues, Riverside Way Pump Station is currently located adjacent to the Delaware River near the Free Bridge. The station is over 100 years old and in need of replacement. A new location off Main Street and Andrews Alley is proposed for the replacement pump station and force main project. The goal is to relocate the pump station out of the floodway to harden the infrastructure and make the sewer pump station more resilient. An application with the New Jersey infrastructure Bank has been initiated for funding the project. Design development documents are being completed along with various environmental permits. A small package pump station will need to remain at the current location to address sewer needs on the river side of the railroad tracks.

Aqua New Jersey continues to replace lead service lines in town. Residents who have not been contacted by Aqua to inspect their lines should watch for mailers from Aqua or notices from their contractor, Roman. If you feel that you have a service line that is lead or galvanized and have not been contacted, you may contact the local Aqua office or provide the town with your name, address and phone number and the info will be relayed to Aqua. My administration, as result of discussions with Aqua has secured Aqua's commitment that they will restore the roads or contribute their fair share of the cost to repaving roads.

Our Recreation Director has been diligently inspecting and review all of our recreational facilities and is currently working on resurfacing the basketball court at Delaware Heights Park as well the playground at Chambers Street Park. We have begun a six week boys' basketball program at PES which will bring in guest speakers including Lehigh University Assistant Coach Harry Moore. We will also be doing a boys and girls three on three basketball event with the Firth Youth Center. Finally, with regard to recreation, we will be conducting a middle school girls' tennis program in conjunction with the PHS tennis coaches and team members.

My administration is currently working with the various Town staff as well as consultants to obtain approval from NJDOT to apply for federal grants related to safe routes to school to improve sidewalks and crossings as well as a federal grant through NJDOT that could be utilized for a number of possible projects ranging from trails and streetscapes based on NJDOT input. The Town continues to work on an application for an NJEDA planning grant for improvements to Delaware River Park. We are grateful the for the support the town is receiving from its community partners in developing this grant. Finally with regard to grants, this week my administration submitted an application to the Light Up Holiday Smiles with FirstEnergy program. This program provides for festive holiday lighting free of charge to deserving communities through our electric utility, JCP&L, a FirstEnergy company. In the event we are chosen, JCP&L/FirstEnergy will install a holiday lighting display at Shappell Park.

To conclude my report, we have with us tonight, developer Mr. Richard Colasuanno who I have been working with on redvitalization of the former Norton Complex into much needed senior housing as well as a grocery store. Mr. Colasuonno will present on this exciting new project for the Town of Phillipsburg and we will work together in order to make this happen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd M. Tersigni, Mayor