



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2021
22 Snug Harbor Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732
Saturday, January 01, 2022 at 12:00 PM

We continue to work closely with the Administrator and Department Heads, we continued to balance the management of the health crisis and do the Borough's business.

The December Report is as follows:

- Awarded contract for the Waterwitch Pump Station upgrades on December 15th. Work should start in the first quarter and be completed by the summer of 2022. This project has been on the books since before Sandy.
- Expanded our agreement with JFK Meridian from 8 hours per weekday to 12 hours, 5am-5 pm and entered into a Shared Service Agreement with Atlantic Highlands to share JFK/Meridian Ambulance service and costs. This agreement will reduce our costs while enjoying the higher amount of service hours.
- Awarded engineering and construction contract to rehab King and Matthews Streets for the NJ DOT sponsored project for resurfacing, reconstruction and drainage for these roads. Work should start in the first quarter.
- Grants Awarded
 - Monmouth County Open Space for the Skate Park \$200,000 on December 9th
 - 2022 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program Challenge pre-proposal accepted on December 21st. They are interested in a full proposal for our project. They received a total of 38 pre-proposals from organizations around the **country and only 20 were asked for a full proposal**; each offering a promising approach to preserving compatible land uses in areas where the military trains, tests and operates [Earle]. Our full application is due March 21, 2022.
 - Out total grants and other funds award for 2021 was **\$4,551,616**.

2021 Grants & Other Awards	Amount
FEMA Hazard Training	\$11,050
Community Development Block Grant to repair Marine Place	\$179,605
American Rescue Plan	\$246,703
NJ Transportation Municipal Aid	\$165,000
FY 2021 Police Body Camera Grant	\$38,722
Sandy Community Disaster Loan Forgiveness [loan + interest]	\$2,860,000
Body Armor Grant	\$38,722
DEP Green Acres Grant \$149,754+ Low Interest Loan \$449,260 for Skate Park	\$599,014
DOT Various Roads Grant	\$212,800
Monmouth County Open Space for Skate Park	\$200,000
Total	\$4,551,616

- Huddy and Veteran's Parks playground surfacing will be installed in January of 2022.
- For December, Highlands COVID-19 new cases are 75, the most in any month since the pandemic began. Total cases are 513. Out of the 53 municipalities in Monmouth County, Highlands has the lowest vaccination rate. We will have a Vaccine Clinic at the Community Center on 1/13 so if you have that first dose under your belt, that would be a great time to get your second shot. We will also begin COVID-19 testing starting 1/10 at the Community Center. Our percentages of population vaccinated are as follows:

	Total	12-17	12+	18+	30+	65+
1 shot	59%	49%	66%	66%	69%	83%
Complete	52%	46%	58%	59%	61%	71%

Status on long-term Projects

- **2019 Waterwitch and Bay Avenues sanitary project** – Waiting for final DEP authorization. All materials they requested from the Borough is in their hands.
 - **Phase 1:** the entirety of Waterwitch Ave [from R36 to Marine Place], North St, Gravelly Point Rd, Ralph St, William St, Ocean Ave, Beach Blvd, Linden Ave, Bay Ave.
 - **Phase 2:** Barberie Ave, Sea Drift Ave and both sides of Marine Place.
- **2021 Flood Mitigation Resiliency Plan** - This comprehensive plan targets four major areas. Each project can be constructed independently, and some will happen sooner than others due to complexity and funding.
 - North Street Pump Station upgrades and storm drainage
 - Marine Place steel bulkhead – Paint water side & replace cap
 - Veteran's Park – Living Shoreline & Bulkhead Combination
 - Snug Harbor Avenue Pump Station – New pump station and replace storm drains
 - The plan will include the following grant submissions:
 - US Department of Defense Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) – pre-proposal submitted 11/22 for joint Monmouth University, Highlands & Aberdeen. Pre-application accepted 12/21. Full application due 3/21/22.
 - FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – submitted to NJOEM 11/15/21, then they send to FEMA in January of 2022
 - FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) – This is a reimbursement grant
 - NJDEP Shore Protection Program – submitted 11/10
- **New Municipal Building** - We will be going out to bid for construction 1/14, with an award date of 2/16.
- **Waterwitch Pump Station Improvements** - Upgrades and install backup generator. Awarded engineering 12/15. Will go out to bid in January 2022.
- **Shadow Lawn Area of Redevelopment** – The DEP has demanded changing the orientation of the 6-story building and said once that is done, that height can be as tall as 20 stories. I tried to get an accommodation with DEP to no avail. Not wanting a 20-story building, I brought this information to the attention of the Governor's office, they could not help. The stalemate is on-going, so the developer is looking at design changes.
- **Captain's Cove Area of Redevelopment** - DEP permits were signed off on 12/20. We are working on the Developer's Agreement and hope to have something in place by the end of the first quarter.
- **Commercial Business District Area of Redevelopment** - Draft Plan released 11/24, public meetings will continue before a final plan is adopted. Amendments to the draft plan will be sent in January.
- **Create Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36]** - Awarded to Engineering 11/10/21. Will go out to bid in January.
- **Enter the Community Rating System [CRS] program for lower flood insurance** - Named CRS Coordinator to be Gregory R. Valesi, PE, PP, CME, CFM of CME on 11/10.
- **Update the Steep Slope Ordinance** - Waiting for recommendations from the Environmental Commission.
- **Skate Park upgrade** – Zoom meeting for final visioning will be in January 2022, work to start in the Spring.
 - Grant application to Green Acres submitted 7/12/21, awarded 10/21/21 \$449,260 in low interest loan and \$149,753 in a grant.
 - Grant application to Monmouth County Open Space submitted 9/16/21, \$200,000 awarded on 12/9.
- **Move electric out of flood zone in Borough parks**
 - Done for Vets and Cornwall completed in August, waiting for quote for Huddy
 - Ederle will be done as part of the larger project to rehab that entire park.
- **Address runoff issues from Monmouth Hills**
 - On-going discussions with Monmouth Hills HOA, State, County and Middletown officials. Monmouth Hills HOA hired an engineering firm to study the area and that engineer's report due is in January.

All the best to you and yours. We will get through this together.

Mayor Carolyn Broullon