

## Town Administrator Report, April 24, 2023

- **USDA.**
  - Equipment for project 2 (Wheelwright Plant) is out to bid and will just stay out until notice to proceed from USDA has occurred.
  - RCAP is working on rates and Betterments. We met on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with Laurie Stevens and she presented a PowerPoint presentation for a possible alternate rate structure. She will be back at our April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with a Betterment structure, hopefully.
  - Joe Delbove, my contact at USDA, calls frequently and wants to see rates adopted before the second project goes out to bid
  - I am still researching RFP's for oversight.

### *New:*

- Gilbertville mill update: I met with David Wluka, Realtor, and George Lang, owner on Tuesday, April 18 and toured the facility. There is a lot of work being done on the inside. They have cleared everything out and some rooms are being painted already. They are waterproofing the exterior and waiting for Natural Heritage to give them the notice to proceed to remove clam shrimp and utilize that area of the parcel. They are separating the "building number 5" and do not have a use for it yet. The building is very structurally sound. They hope to be operational for cultivation in the summer. One of the biggest holdbacks is a transformer from NGrid they need for power for the whole operation.
- I am working on an MVP action grant. We have selected a project. We are requesting that we hire a private consultant to come in to do a town-wide inventory and assessment of the culverts, using the scoring criteria and framework outlined by the NAACC.
- I went to a meet and greet through Quaboag Hill Chamber on Wednesday, April 19. I met Andrew Surprise, CEO, and we discussed applying for grants to fund our Rapid Recovery Plan (RRP) for Gilbertville that we completed in 2021. I am looking forward to working with him on that.
- I cannot make May 8 meeting. Can we switch? Angie has also offered to be here in my place.

### *Ongoing:*

- Our EV charger at Town Hall is broken and needs replacement. I am waiting to hear back with a quote
- Town Hall boiler update. The restoration company has measured all new materials for floors, walls and ceilings.
- Construction has begun again with Ludlow Construction and MassDOT on Main Street in Gilbertville. Expect delays.
- Vacant town owned parcels; White Building; Paige Building; Ruggles Hill School. What shall we do? I recently insured them, as there has been none on the properties. RFP? Auction? We had a Capital Planning meeting Monday, March 27 at 3PM begin discussion. It was basically introductions, and we should have another meeting soon.
- Council on Aging are holding office hours once again. 12:30PM at Quabbin Estates and Municipal Building (Town Hall) at 10:00AM. Please come down and check out all of the services they have. Snacks served! Eileen and/or Brenda will be at each location on the last Wednesday of the month for an hour at each place unless otherwise necessary.
- DLS submitted Financial Policy manual. I will be forwarding as soon as I can go through so I may answer any questions you may have.
- Accountant; Shared services.
- Water Commission: We have received the water meters to upgrade technology and researching surrounding towns for rates, as well as exploring regulations and procedures. Most meters have been installed. We need to schedule training with Ti Sales and East National Water.

- I have begun attending coffee hour at the Hardwick/Barre Senior Center the first Wednesday of the month. Please come join me for a conversation or if you have any questions or concerns.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. My email along with work and cell numbers are on the website, and my door is always open.