

Town Administrator Report, May 9, 2022

- Confidential Mediation with USDA is ongoing. I hope to have more news soon.
- Our new IT firm, CM Geeks, is performing all migration of IT and has been working with me since last Friday and continued throughout the weekend so our entire system would be protected by Monday. All staff seem to be very pleased with the transition.
- Vadar is ongoing with collector software migration.
- Town audit is still ongoing. Staff continues to assist with documentation and I was assured by the auditors it will be complete by this week, in at least draft form.
- You Tube for viewing meetings at home has been created. We have a scheduled date for hardware installation for better viewing set up for May 10 & 11. Meetings are live. Please check the website for URL. Do you wish to have other meetings live and available as archived?
- Conservation and Highway are working to fix a culvert across from Mimi's Coffeehouse. If you see large black piping and the backhoe, that is what it is there for.
- There is a lot of construction going on in Town, and a lot of detail work is needed. The Department is doing its best to fill all detail work daily.
- We switched drug testing companies. (anyone with a CDL must be tested randomly per MGL) Employees used to have to go to Springfield and they would lose half of a day. I solicited Custom Drug Testing as I am familiar with them and they come on site so the Highway doesn't lose any time at all. Our first one was last week. Went very smoothly. Highway has also received the chainsaw equipment from the \$4,000 MIIA grant and I am told they are thrilled with it.
- The new Reminder paper should be getting to everyone by now. Please read our local articles!
- My biweekly Town Administrator reports will now be located on the Town website on the Selectmen's page for easy perusal.
- I was contacted by Mass DOT regarding the Muddy Brook bridge replacement that has a bid date of 11/2/2024. The ROW plans have not been approved for right of way acquisition purposes. We will need TMA. I have forwarded to Counsel for their guidance. I am unsure of whether it needs to be this year or not.
- Bids for fuel procurement are due 5/16. I should have figures for the next meeting. Currently we are paying market price. That hurts my soul!
- While I was on vacation I was the topic of conversation on a forum regarding being more transparent. I addressed it in how I feel I am as transparent as I can be, however it got me thinking on how I can be better at educating residents and getting more people involved.

I am thinking about doing a Citizen Leadership Academy. (CLA) Residents can sign up and we can have weekly meeting for 4-6 weeks so our residents can learn about how Local Government runs. I would ask each Board/Dept to come in and give a synopsis of what each role plays in running the Town. My thoughts are to start this after the summer as many people go away. I would welcome feedback on this idea.

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

Thank you,

Nicole