

Town Administrator Report, December 5, 2022

- **USDA**

- New location for pump station environmental review is near completion. Endangered species review ends December 5, 2022. So long as there is no comment, we can proceed.
- We are working on the easement documents and language with DPC, KP Law and a survey team. The surveyors were out on Thursday, December 1.
- We are working on rates and betterments with RCAP. We should have the rates for a Town Meeting soon.

New:

- 2021 Audit is complete. I have hard copies at Town Hall. I have requested a digital format but have not received yet. FY2022 is near completion. Auditor and Accountant coming out this week.
- We have set up an email where people can submit questions, comments or information regarding the proposed horse racetrack location. It is horseracinginfo@townofhardwick.com It has been placed on our website, Facebook and in the Ware River News and Barre Gazette. I am also hoping to get the info out on WARE 97.7
- I have been approached to speak on WARE 97.7 radio on a regular basis to inform listeners of events and projects happening in Hardwick. I would like your permission to go on as a guest on a regular basis.
- Streetlights: I have been approached by more than one resident re: lights out. Reached out to NGrid. Waiting to hear back
- Joe's Jackets- kids winter clothing- served over 400 children last year- contact jossjackets@gmail.com
- Hardwick Winery- celebrating 25 years in business, Congratulations to the Samek family and staff
- Friends of the Stone Church- hosted Bach and Beyond and have many events. Contact friendsofthestonechurch.org for more information
- Whistlestop has their Cert. Of Occupancy as of the end of last week and should be having a soft opening soon. Hoping to have Santa rides before Christmas
- Planning Board holding a PH for a Class II located at 435 Lower Road on Dec 13. We will have to hold a PH as well for a Class II License

Ongoing:

- Hardwick Elementary School- Front entry doors are decayed and becoming compromised. The school received one quote for \$18,454.00 from New England School Services. I have called 3 other companies for quotes. We received one more quote from KDH for \$11,799.00 I asked Kevin Clark to review and give recommendation. I then received an email from Jessica Bennett requesting a meeting with Me, Julie, Dr. Muir, Cheryl Duval and Kevin Clark. As of this writing I do not have a time or date for meeting.
- Town Hall flooding: Demolition crew is done. Reconstruction crew should start soon. Contractors are very hard to get at the moment.
- Close to finalizing new phone system for your approval to comply with E911
- Retirement Insurance: wrote policy for Personnel review. Once I get it back from Counsel and they approve, I would like to request a meeting of the personnel committee to get their recommendation for approval formally to the Board of Selectmen.
- 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 Brenda will be at each location on the last Wednesday of the month for an hour at each place unless otherwise necessary.
- DLS came out to conduct interviews for a financial review. Their initial impression was that they feel optimistic on where the Town is headed and the accomplishments over the past year. The formal review will take up to 12 weeks.
- Accountant; Shared services.
- Recycling: Container contract. Update: Removing containers and canceling contract. We unfortunately had signed for three containers but allegedly 2 were delivered. We have no proof they weren't all contract had been paid on

the preface that we had 3 containers. We must pay \$8,000.00 for the missing container. We will take it out of Recycling expense.

- Water Commission: We will be ordering meters this week to upgrade technology and researching surrounding towns for rates, as well as exploring regulations and procedures.

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.