

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: September 23, 2020
Re: **Manager's Report**



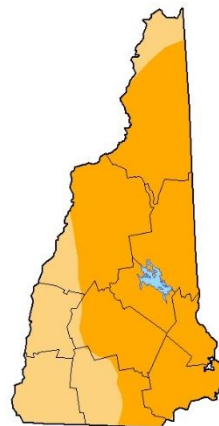
News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Bedford has seen a great reduction in the number cases with only **5 current COVID-19 positive patients**. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself including wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible.
- 2) Bedford Cares – continues to provide an incredible service to members of our community who are in need of assistance with such things as shopping and picking up of prescriptions. If you need their support please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordNHCares/>.
- 3) The Fire Department Open House and The Citizens Police Academy unfortunately have been cancelled for 2020 but should be able to take place next year.
- 4) The State Primary Election on September 8th had 5,873 votes cast representing 31.8% of our 18,450 registered voters. 103 people registered to vote on the day of the election and hundreds more in the weeks just prior to the election. Republican votes were: 2,403 at the polls and 863 absentee. Democratic Votes were: 1,046 at the polls and 1,563 absentee. Any resident who has any concerns with voting in person at the November 3rd Federal and State election due to COVID-19 are encouraged to vote absentee and instructions are available on the Town Clerk's website at: <https://nh-bedford.civicplus.com/491/Election-Information>

- 5) Drought – Bedford and 78% of NH is now in the condition defined as "Severe Drought" with the rest of the state being "abnormally dry". We are aware of Bedford residents having water supply problems and I would encourage all residents to implement water conservation measures now like only watering vegetable garden crops. Merrimack Village Water District has implemented an outdoor watering ban which impacts those in Greenfield Farms, Cabot Preserve, Jenkins Road, and the Brick Mill Road area who receive their water from Merrimack through Pennichuck Water Works.

U.S. Drought Monitor New Hampshire

September 15, 2020
(Released Thursday, Sep. 17, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

- 6) PFAS – NHDES and Saint Gobain have restarted testing private wells in southeastern Bedford now that the PFAS standards have been adopted into law. It is unknown how long it will take before we know what solutions will be proposed. Saint-Gobain's variance application to delay installation of the thermal oxidizer on their emissions stack was denied on September 10, 2020. When oxidizer is completed in early 2021, based on existing standards there will no longer be any continuing drinking water contamination from airborne PFAS emissions.
- 7) 2020 Census – Bedford currently has a response rate of 83.9% which is sixth in the State. Please complete the Census by going to <https://my2020census.gov/> It truly takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- 8) The Bedford Farmers Market continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM through September at the Harvest Market parking lot.

Project Updates:

- 1) 2020 CIP & Budget – The Department Heads have completed their proposed budgets and review meetings will be held with the Manager and Finance team next week. Work continues on revenue projections, fund balance standing, and tax impacts of requested elements and programs. The CIP has been provided to the Planning Board who will make individual comments to the Manager as a result of very long Board meetings. The CIP will be presented to the Council on September 23rd, but remains a flexible document throughout the budget process.
- 2) 2020 Roads Program – Work continues with the major focus being on Gage Girls Road. Many roads that were worked on earlier in the year will be receiving their top coats in the coming weeks including Hitching Post Lane, Pinecrest Drive, Grafton Drive, and Wentworth Drive. The South River Road contract has resumed on Constitution Drive and Harvey Road and will be starting the Foster's Place construction soon.
- 3) The Sportsman Field project is advertised for re-bid and there appears to be strong interest. Bids are due back on September 29th and we hope to be able to award the contract at the October 14th Council meeting.
- 4) The Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Operations Plan updates both continue to have meetings and will be completed over the next several months.
- 5) The Master Plan has completed recording of their public outreach videos and are available for the public to view along with the draft plan. The plan is proposed to be discussed by the Planning Board at their workshop on October 5th.
- 6) The town building security improvements project team has met and is working on an RFQ that should be issued in the coming weeks with installation expected to be in early 2021.
- 7) The State of NH Retirement System is currently conducting an audit of our last 3 years of reporting and the HR Department is responding to all of their requests for documentation.
- 8) Personnel: Our Finance Department AP position has been filled and second interviews are being conducted for the IT position next week. We are in the final stages of hiring one

certified police officer which would have the department fully staffed for the first time in a long time. The fire department filled its two open positions. Postings are currently up for our code official, equipment operator, and truck driver, positions.

Events:

- October 12th – Columbus Day, The Library will be closed to the public for staff training, all other facilities will open. The Transfer Station will be closed as typical on Mondays.
- October 31, 2015 - Trick or Treating will be on Saturday, time to be announced.
- November 3rd – Federal and State Election, 7 AM- 7 PM, Bedford High School

Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~September 22nd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee~~
- September 22nd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **September 23rd – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- September 24th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- October 5th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (workshop)
- October 6th – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- October 8th – 7:45 AM, Water and Sewer Committee
- October 8th – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers
- October 12th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- **October 14th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- October 15th – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- October 20th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- October 22nd – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- October 26st – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- October 27th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- October 27th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **October 28th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**

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