

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: October 8, 2020
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) Drought – **Bedford** and a large portion of Southern NH **is now in the condition defined as “Extreme Drought”** with nearly all of the rest of the state being in “Severe Drought”. We are aware of Bedford residents having water supply problems. It is imperative that all residents and businesses implement water conservation measures immediately 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



October 6, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 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:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford unfortunately has seen an increase in the number cases recently with **50 current COVID-19 positive patients**. It is my understanding that the vast majority of these cases are within one long term care facility but that we do have cases in the community as a whole which means we need to continue to be a cautious as possible when out in the public. 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.
- 3) 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/>.
- 4) Trick-or-Treating is scheduled for Saturday, October 31st from 6–8 PM. Participation is completely optional and we encourage those who participate to do so in a safe manner following CDC guidelines. This should include all participants wearing cloth face masks, traveling with ONLY members of your own household and social distance from all others keeping 6 feet away. Anyone not wishing to participate please indicate by leaving your house lights off during this time period.

- 5) The Federal and State Election will be held on November 3rd at the Bedford High School from 7 AM - 7 PM. Over 5,000 absentee ballots have been requested and mailed out so far and over 400 people have registered to vote since the September primary. Given the tremendous volume and foot traffic at the Town Office Building, the elections team will be utilizing the Town's emergency shelter in the Town Office parking lot for as much of the registration and absentee voting process as possible for the remaining 3 weeks. I'd like to thank the elections team for their hard work and countless hours dedicated to making all 4 elections this year as easy as possible for the voters.
- 6) National Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, October 24th between 10 AM and 2 PM. Residents can dispose of their prescription drugs at the Bedford Police Station, 55 Constitution Drive 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but we bring special attention to issue on the National Drug Take Back Day.
 
 The logo for DEA National Rx Take Back Day features the text "DEA NATIONAL Rx TAKEBACK" in a stylized font with a red and blue color scheme. Below the logo, it says "Saturday, October 24 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m." and "DEATakeBack.com". To the right of the text is an image of several colorful pills and capsules.
- 7) National Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2020, "Be Happy, Be Brave, Be Drug Free" is the theme this year. Please join us in recognizing this week by decorating your home, mailbox or fence. Several Town buildings and grounds will be illuminated in red during the week.
 
 The logo for National Red Ribbon Week features the text "Be happy BE BRAVE BE DRUG FREE" in a colorful, bubbly font. Below the main text, it says "RED RIBBON WEEK® OCT. 23-31" and "© NFP · www.redribbon.org". There is also a small red ribbon icon and a small logo for the National Foundation for Poison Prevention.
- 8) 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. If you have received a request for well testing it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.
- 9) We have not yet received our Tax Rate but we are hopeful it will be received soon so that we can issue tax bills with a December 1st due date.

Project Updates:

- 1) 2020 CIP & Budget – The Department Heads have completed their proposed budgets and review meetings have been held with the Manager and Finance team. Work continues on final Manager decisions, revenue projections, fund balance standing, and tax impacts of requested elements and programs. The budget will be presented to the Council on October 28th.
- 2) Right to Know Request – The Planning Staff, Town Manager team, and IT Manager have spent numerous hours responding to Right to Know requests filed by the proponents of the Market and Main development. It is expected that the complete response will take numerous weeks of total personnel time.
- 3) 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 days including Colley Drive, Col Daniels Drive, Federation Road, Wentworth Drive, and Grafton Drive. The South River Road has completed base pavement Cedarwood Drive, Commerce Drive, and Harvey Road and the tree clearing has been completed Foster's Place.

- 4) Bids were received for Sportsman Field reconstruction and a recommendation has been forwarded to the Council to award the contract at the October 14th Council meeting.
- 5) The Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Operations Plan updates both continue to have meetings and will be completed over the next several months.
- 6) 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 was discussed by the Planning Board at their workshop on October 5th at which time it was decided to form a subcommittee to work with Planning Staff on revisions.
- 7) The State of NH Retirement System is continuing with 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 top candidate for the IT position has turned down the offer so we will be deciding how to move forward in the coming days. Interviews will be taking place next week for code official, and offers are currently pending for our equipment operator and truck driver positions.

Events:

- October 12th – Columbus Day, The Library will be closed to the public for staff training, but all other facilities will open. The Transfer Station will be closed as typical on Mondays.
- October 31st - Trick or Treating will be on Saturday, 6-8 PM.
- November 3rd – Federal and State Election, 7 AM- 7 PM, Bedford High School

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 8th – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers
- October 12th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- October 13th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (additional meeting)
- **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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