

# MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
Date: May 6, 2021  
Re: **Manager's Report**



## News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford has seen a slight decrease in the number of cases with **35 current COVID-19 positive patients**. I strongly encourage all residents to get vaccinated if possible and follow commonsense precautions when visiting public locations. The Governor has lifted most all business and crowd restrictions effective May 7<sup>th</sup> and replaced them with recommendations.
- 2) PFAS – **NHDES will hold a virtual public information meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.** NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing a large number of private wells in southeastern Bedford but unfortunately they have not announced any remediation steps yet while they wait for more data. 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. The Bedford representatives to the State PFAS Commission will be attending the May 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to update the community and answer any questions.

- 3) Drought conditions in NH have improved slightly over the last two weeks with the area that is defined as "Moderate Drought" reducing by about 10% in southwestern NH. Bedford remains in the Moderate Drought condition. Without a significantly wetter than normal spring it is likely that we will return to severe drought or worse this summer and watering restrictions will need to be considered.

U.S. Drought Monitor  
New Hampshire



May 4, 2021  
(Released Thursday, May 4, 2021)  
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 follows an iterative  
process. Local conditions may vary. For more  
information on the Drought Monitor, go to  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about>

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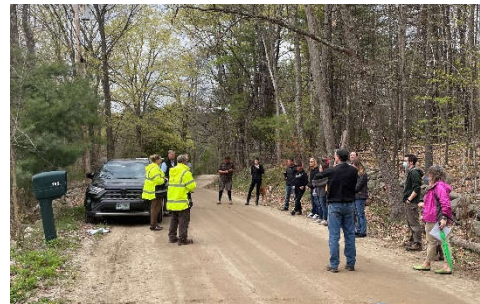
- 4) May 16-22, 2021 is the 46<sup>th</sup> annual National EMS Week. In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities. This year's theme is "This Is EMS: Caring for Our Communities" which comes through strongly every day in the actions of our Bedford personnel but was taken to the next level over the past year when they worked tirelessly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic treating us without pause, educating us to appropriate precautions, and ensuring that anyone who wanted a vaccination in our community got one. Please join me in thanking them for all they do!

**EMS STRONG**  
This Is EMS: Caring for Our Communities

- 5) Annual Hydrant Flushing – Pennichuck Water Works has announced that they will be flushing water mains in the Powder Hill area May 10-13 and they recommend avoid doing laundry during this time and have indicated that you may experience low pressure or cloudy water.
- 6) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town Website <http://www.bedfordreonline.com/info/activities/default.aspx>
- 7) Tax bills are on schedule to be issued by the end of May with a July 1<sup>st</sup> due date. The first bill of the year is based on the tax rate set in 2020 with property valuation updates made for any changes to the property completed by April 1, 2021.
- 8) Please register your dog(s) prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to avoid any late fees for 2021.
- 9) Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled for 2021.

### **Project Updates:**

- 1) Sportsman Field – Reconstruction remains on schedule with the pad and turf having been placed over the last week.
- 2) 2021 Roads Program – is off to a good start with the Gage Girls Road work making great progress and the tree clearing being initiated on the Old Mill Road project following a neighborhood meeting (picture to the right) held by the DPW team.
- 3) Personnel – There are currently 4 openings in the Highway Department. The Fire Inspector interviews have been completed and a conditional offer has been made. One conditional offer for a firefighter/paramedic remains pending. Officer Kyle Burt has filled our open Patrol position and comes to us from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and is a US Marine Corp veteran. Our Accounts Payable and Associate Planner positions remain vacant and advertised while resumes received to date are reviewed.



### **Events:**

- May 6<sup>th</sup> – PFAS Virtual Public Meeting, 6:30 PM.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Grand Opening of the Farm Stand at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, 10 AM, with events Noon-6 PM.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> – Bedford Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station, & BCTV Closed for Memorial Day.
- June 19<sup>th</sup> – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubuck Road.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- May 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board

- **May 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications
- May 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- May 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- May 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **May 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- May 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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