

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: May 21, 2021
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) I regret to announce the passing of long time Town Assessor Bill Ingalls. Bill was a 22 year employee and a highly respected and often decorated leader in the assessing industry. Bill cared deeply for the community and went out of his way to meet with the elderly or physically challenged residents at their homes to review necessary forms and applications.

Outside of work Bill was the host of Back & Forth, a long running program on WBNH-LP, a superior musician and singer, an excellent cook, and was passionate about history, sports, and knowledgeable about just about everything. Bill will always be remembered for his love of cats where he would often adopt older adult cats that were hard for others to take on.

Bill will be missed by his family, many friends, residents, assessing colleagues, and co-workers. Bill's family has not yet announced any service arrangements.



- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford has seen a decrease in the number of cases with **24 current COVID-19 positive patients**. I strongly encourage all residents to get vaccinated if possible and follow commons sense precautions when visiting public locations.
- 3) PFAS – 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 from Golder Associates it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.

4) Drought conditions in NH have improved significantly over the last two weeks with Bedford and almost all of the state no longer being in the area that is defined as "Moderate Drought". Approximately half of the state is no longer in any drought condition. Bedford remains in the "Abnormally Dry" classification and we ask Bedford residents to be mindful of their water consumption.

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Hampshire



May 18, 2021
(Released Thursday, May 20, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

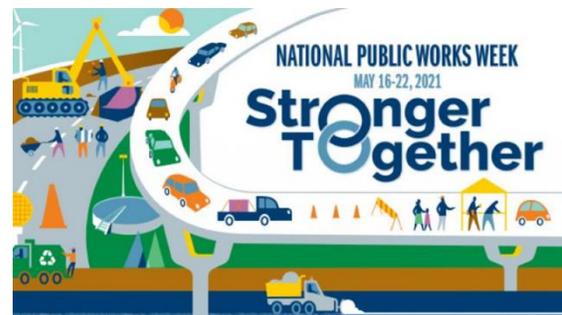
Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor shows an overall state condition. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>
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NSMA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

5) May 16-22, 2021 is the 46th 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!



6) May 16-22, 2021 is the 61st National Public Works Week. We celebrate the import role public works plays in making and keeping Bedford such a great place to live, work, and raise a family. While we often think of our team in the winter when they are out plowing our roads, they work every day all year round taking care of our infrastructure, facilities, and town vehicle and equipment. There is no doubt that our community is stronger as a result of their work. Please join me in thanking them for all they do all year!



7) 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.bedfordreconline.com/info/activities/default.aspx>

8) Bedford Memorial Pool – The pool is scheduled to open on Father's Day, June 20th. Seasonal pool passes are available through the Recreation Department at single \$75, family \$125, and family with baby sitter \$145. Passes are free for those over 60 years of age. Due to COVID protocols, use of the pool will be restricted to those who have signed up in advance through the recreation website.

- 9) Tax bills are on schedule to be issued by the end of May with a July 1st 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.
- 10) The Bedford Farmers Market opens June 15th and continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM until October at Primary Plaza parking lot.
- 11) Please register your dog(s) prior to June 1st in order to avoid any late fees for 2021.

Project Updates:

- 1) Sportsman Field – Reconstruction remains on schedule with the fencing and final field adjustments taking place over the next week.
- 2) Library Lighting – The contractor has completed approximately 50% of the project. As previously reported this project is being completed through an agreement with Eversource who will provide nearly 50% funding to complete a conversion of incandescent lighting to highly efficient models. The project is expect to have a 3-4 year return on investment through reduced operating cost while providing improved light quality and quantity. The projected savings is 74,945 kWh annually which is equivalent to 7 households and will reduce 46 tons of Carbon Dioxide, 907 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide, 462 pounds of Nitrogen Oxides from being released.
- 3) Personnel – There are currently 4 openings in the Highway Department. The Police Department now has 3 openings as a result of 3 employees moving out of state. The Fire Inspector position has been accepted by our top candidate and will start in June. Our last firefighter/paramedic position has been filled. The Library is now fully staffed. Interviews for our Associate Planner position have been completed and a conditional offer has been made. Our Accounts Payable position remains vacant and advertised while resumes received to date are reviewed.

Events:

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 24th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (workshop)
- ~~May 25th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee~~
- May 25th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **May 26th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- May 27th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

- June 1st – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- June 8th – 7:00 PM, Park & Recreation
- **June 9th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- June 10th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- June 14th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- June 15th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- June 17th – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers
- June 18th – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- June 22nd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- June 22nd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **June 23rd – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- June 24th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- June 28th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board

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