

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: November 11, 2021
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – **Bedford currently has 77 current COVID-19 positive patients with significant spread occurring in the community.** Bedford has had a total of 2,636 cases. 54.8% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 58.7% fully vaccinated residents and 63.9% with one dose. Vaccines are good at keeping someone from contracting the virus and if there is a breakthrough then it generally keeps the patient from being extremely ill where hospitalization is required. I strongly encourage anyone who can be vaccinated or who is eligible to receive a booster to do so. We will monitor the situation and put mask recommendations or mandates in place for our public buildings as warranted. Currently masks are encouraged in all buildings and required at the Safety Complex. Our organization continues to adjust as needed and assist employees who test positive, become ill, or have exposures. Over the last two weeks COVID has extremely impacted our staffing levels across the organization.
- 2) The period for citizen petition zoning amendments runs between November 9th and December 9th. Anyone interested submitting a petition is encouraged contact the Planning Department for assistance.
- 3) The 2021 Tax Rate has been set at \$17.14 down from \$20.02 (-\$2.88 or -14.39%). The Town portion is down to \$3.76 from \$4.24 (11.32%). Tax bills have been mailed with a December 1st due date.
- 4) WBNH has received four 2021 Granite Mike Awards from The New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters, two first place and two second place. In all, WBNH has won 24 awards since signing on in February of 2016. Congratulations Harry Kozlowski and the entire WBNH team and I thank them for their hard work over the past year.

First Place:

- LPFM Station of the Year
- Sports Play by Play for coverage of the baseball playoff game between Bedford and Central hosted by Loren Foxx and Andrew Hanson.

Second Place:

- Sports Play by Play for Bedford vs. Bishop Guertin Girls Basketball State Finals hoisted by Harry Kozlowski and Bedford athletic director Corey Parker.
- Public Service Announcement. Recruitment ad for the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains.

Also announced is that Bedford High School Jennifer McDonald who produce BHS Radio Unleashed won first place in the "Best News Feature" category in the John Drury National High School Radio Awards with her story on the Capitol Riots.

- 5) November 17th – December 17th Santa's Mailbox will be available in the lobby of the Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road for Express Mail to the North Pole. Santa's helpers have asked that you be sure to print your name and address clearly on your letter.
- 6) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban begins on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.
- 7) PFAS Contamination – 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.
- 8) PFAS Contamination – The DPW team has submitted a request for a \$1.5M grant from NHDES in order to install a water main extension for those residents and businesses impacted by PFAS contamination along Bedford Center Road between North Amherst Road and Primary Plaza that are outside of the Saint-Gobain study areas.

Project Updates:

- 1) 2021 Roads Program – Meadow Lane has received base pavement and is anticipated to be open to the public before Thanksgiving.
- 2) Master Plan – The Planning Board adopted the 2021 Master Plan following a public hearing on November 8th. I want to thank the Planning staff and Planning Board members who put so much time into the document and process.
- 3) Personnel – There are currently 4 openings in the Highway Department and 1 other is out on extended leave. The Police Department has 2 patrol and 1 Captain openings. The vacant Communications position has been filled. The Fire Department is fully staffed, except two members are out on extended leave. A Library clerk position is open with interviews happening next week. The Deputy Town Clerk position is vacant which can only be filled by Bedford residents. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk for more information.

Events:

- November 11 – Veteran's Day, Town Office, Library, Transfer Station closed.
- November 13 - A Walk at Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary and Historical Land Use Discussion, 1-4 PM, Joppa Hill Road. Register at www.plcnh.org/events/
- November 14 - A Walk at Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary and Historical Land Use Discussion, 1-4 PM, Joppa Hill Road. Register at www.plcnh.org/events/

- November 14 – Cinema Sunday, “West Side Story”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- November 20 - Bedford PTG Ski, Skate, & More Sale, 9 AM-2 PM, Bedford High School.
- November 20 – Bedford Boomers Lionel Model Railroad Exhibit at the Library 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, again on the 21 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM in celebration of National Model Railroad Month.
- November 25-26 – Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Office, Library, Transfer Station closed. The Library closes at 5 PM on the 24th.
- December 5 – Sunday Concert & Cookies, “Bloom/Ray Jazz Duo (Peter H. Bloom, flute; and Tim Ray, piano) will celebrate the season with Swinging Holiday Hits from the Great American Songbook”, 2:30-4 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- December 12 – Cinema Sunday, “It’s a Wonderful Life”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~November 11 – 7:45 AM, Water and Sewer Committee~~
- **November 13 - 8:00 AM, Town Council Budget Workshop**
- November 16 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **November 17 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- November 18 – 9:00 AM, Poles and Wires Committee
- November 18 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- November 19 – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- November 22 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- ~~November 23 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee~~
- November 23 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- December 6 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- December 7 – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- December 9 – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Advisory Committee
- December 9 – 9:00 AM, Poles and Wires Committee
- December 14 – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission
- **December 15 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- December 17 – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- December 20 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- December 21 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- December 23 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- December 28 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- December 28 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission

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