

# MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
Date: January 6, 2022  
Re: **Manager's Report**

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## News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – **Bedford currently has 174 COVID-19 positive patients with significant spread occurring in the community.** Bedford has had a total of 3,573 cases. 55.9% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 59.6% fully vaccinated residents and 65.4% with one dose. The State continues to experience a very high number of cases and hospitals remain at maximum capacity. 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. **The Bedford Fire Department is providing free clinics for vaccinations every Wednesday in January from 3-7 PM for those eligible 5 years of age and older, first dose, second dose, or booster for Pfizer. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by emailing [educlos@bedfordnh.org](mailto:educlos@bedfordnh.org)**

Our organization is again being very highly impacted across all departments and we continue to adjust as needed and assist employees who test positive, become ill, or have exposures. It is possible that a department you need to interact with will be closed or short staffed at this time. The Planning Department is currently closed with staff working remotely and the Library will likely need to close early on Thursday evenings.

- 2) The registration period for open elected positions is January 19, 2022 through 5 PM January 28, 2022.

### Open Town Elected Positions:

- Two Town Council positions (3-year terms)
- *One Town Council position (2-year term) **Anticipated***
- One Library Trustee (3-year term)
- One Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)
- One Supervisor of the Checklist (6-year term)
- One Town Moderator (2-year term)

### Open School District Positions:

- One School Board position (3-year terms)
- One School District Moderator (3-year term)
- One School District Clerk (3-year term)
- One School District Treasurer (3-year term)

Any Bedford registered voter wishing to file for Office must do so by contacting Town Clerk Sally Kellar at 472-3550. The Town Clerk will be available during office hours at the Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road and until 5 PM on the last day of filing.

As per RSA 669:19 candidates who file on the last day of the filing period shall do so in person before the Town Clerk.

- 3) The Planning Board will hold public hearings on 3 proposed zoning amendments on January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The amendments can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5531/2022-Zoning-Amendments---Legal-Notice-and-Full-Text>
- 4) The Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Land Development Control Regulations regarding updated Impact Fees. The amendment can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5553/2022-Impact-Fee-Update> and those with questions should contact the Planning Department at 472-5243 or [planning@bedfordnh.org](mailto:planning@bedfordnh.org)
- 5) PFAS Contamination – As a result of at least 73 properties outside of the Saint-Gobain consent decree area and generally north of Route 101 that have PFAS readings above regulated limits, a grant was submitted to NHDES this week to provide reimbursements to those property owners who install point of entry treatment systems or connect to public water should the grant be approved. Currently there is no identified responsible party for these impacted property owners. It is my understanding that anyone living in Bedford outside of the consent decree area can request that their well water be tested by submitting an application through the NHDES website at: [https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page\\_id=307](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page_id=307)
- 6) 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.
- 7) The Town of Bedford and the Piscataquog Land Conservancy have completed the conservation of 123 acres of land formerly owned by the Marcia Marston Trust in Bedford and Goffstown along Wallace Road. The Marston lands include a long stretch of undeveloped frontage on Wallace Road, a fast-developing area, identified in the Bedford Open Space plan as a priority for protection because of its proximity to other conservation lands, demand for development, existing natural conditions and scenic opportunities. The Marston Trust had previously been preparing to market the land for development. The million-dollar purchase was funded from the Town's conservation fund and without tax dollars.
- 8) The Bedford Conservation Commission is establishing a Trail Stewardship Subcommittee to help maintain, connect, and possibly expand out expand our existing trail system. If you are interested in serving please contact Associate Planner Kathleen Ports at [kports@bedfordnh.org](mailto:kports@bedfordnh.org) or 792-1320.

- 9) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1<sup>st</sup>, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.

**Project Updates:**

- 1) The Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by the State and will be presented to the Council for a public hearing and adoption in February.
- 2) Personnel – There are currently 5 openings in the Highway Department including the Highway Superintendent, Head Mechanic position and 1 other is out on extended leave. One truck driver position was filled this week. The Police Department has 2 patrol, 1 Captain, and the Animal Control Officer position open and have 3 pending appointments. The Fire Department is fully staffed, except two members are out on extended leave. A Library clerk position is open with interviews ongoing. 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:**

- January 9 – Cinema Sunday, "Blade Runner", 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- January 15 – Burning of the Greens, 5-8 PM, Educational Farm at Joppa Hill.
- January 16 – Snowflake Shuffle road race, 9:30AM. The race will be conducted on Constitution Drive, Route 101, Liberty Hill Road, and Pilgrim Drive.
- January 17 – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Day.
- February 5 – Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Ball Gala, 7 PM, Manchester Country Club, Bedford, NH. Tickets at <https://www.theeducationalfarm.org/snow-ball.html>

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