

Town of Hamilton

Town Manager's Office

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon. March 1, 2021

Vaccinations – The Hamilton Health staff and Hamilton Fire Department continue to work with Conley's Pharmacy of Ipswich, the Council on Aging and MRC volunteers to offer vaccinations to eligible residents, based on the state's guidance regarding eligibility criteria.

The weekly vaccine clinics will be announced once Conley's is able to confirm the availability of vaccine on a weekly basis. Please continue to check the town website, www.hamiltonma.gov, for regularly updated information about local clinic availability each week.

Town Clerk updates – Hamilton Town Clerk Carin Kale reminds residents that the deadline to return signed nomination papers for the Town Election is March 18, 2021. This year, there are elections for Board of Selectman, Planning Board, Town Moderator, Board of Assessors, Hamilton Housing Authority and School Committee.

Additionally, residents are reminded that if they haven't returned their town census or dog license application, there is still time to do so.

Cell Tower Permit – Site work has begun in the DPW yard, to prepare the foundation for the cell phone tower. The foundation is expected to be poured in the next week or two and readied for the tower construction in mid to late March. We'll continue to provide updates on the progress of the tower over the coming weeks.



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Town Hall hours and appointments – Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, Hamilton Town Hall is currently open to the public for reduced drop-in hours, but staff remains available to take appointments outside of those scheduled drop-in hours.

Currently the building is open to the public without an appointment on the following schedule:

Monday	8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday	2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Thursday	12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

However, if these hours do not fit your scheduled, please call Town Hall, dial the extension of the office you wish to see and make an appointment for service. Our staff is here during normal Town hall operating hours (non-COVID times) and is able to work with all of our residents to provide you service. Social distancing and other safety precautions remain in effect.

Community Conversation about Human Rights – Selectmen Rosemary Kennedy and Jamie Knudsen, on behalf of the full Board of Selectmen, have worked hard to develop a forum for this Thursday, March 4, beginning at 6:30 p.m., which “will continue to open the door to empathy and understanding of diverse groups of people,” here in Hamilton and beyond. The selectmen worked with Police Chief Russ Stevens and Council on Aging Director Mary Beth Lawton on the format and to attract an interesting group of speakers for this moderated discussion. “Our goal,” said selectwoman Kennedy, “is to help enrich the conversation in Hamilton, and by doing so help us understand who we are, and ultimately contribute to the good of the entire community.”

For information about the forum and the Zoom link to join the meeting, please see the town website.

School Budget request – The Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee Chair and the chairs of the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen and Finance and Advisory Committees are continuing to meet to discuss the FY'22 School Department budget request in an effort to reduce the burden on taxpayers in both Hamilton and Wenham, prior to next week's anticipated School Committee vote on the proposed FY'22 School Budget. The chairs will not be making any votes, but they will bring information back to their respective committees for discussions and decision making purposes.

Information about Compost program – The town is continuing its efforts to make residents aware of the changes adopted for the trash program by the Board of Selectmen. To date, the



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town has received 60 applications for exemptions stickers, and over 170 requests for new green bins. As a result of the number of requests for green bins, the DPW has ordered another 160 or so green bins to go with the 160 it had previously ordered.

The town is expecting additional requests for exemption stickers and green bins once we ask Casella to place warning stickers on trash bins in the next week or so. This will help us make sure that all residents have had ample opportunity to learn about the program before any trash barrels are rejected for service later this spring.

This has been an intentionally slow start to this program, because it takes time to make sure that everyone has the equipment they need to participate in the program, as well as knowledge of the change.



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