

# Town of Hamilton

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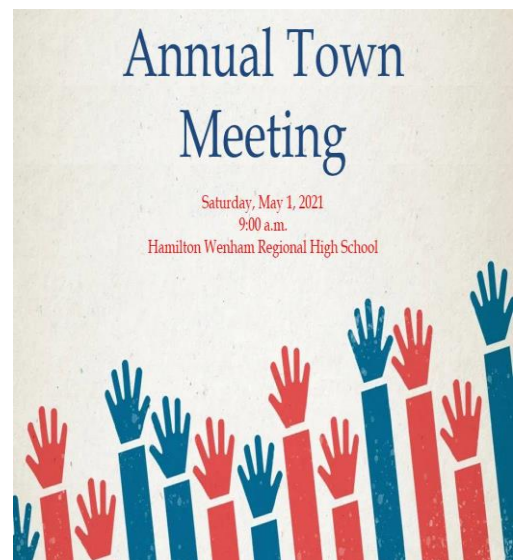
## Town Manager's Office

### Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen Tues. April 20, 2021

**COVID Case numbers decline locally** – We are happy to report that after a brief rise in active COVID cases in Hamilton earlier this month, the Town's numbers have started to go down again. As of Friday, April 16, the Town was back down to 12 active cases, putting us back in the "Green" risk category. The Board of Health and Public Health Nurse appreciate residents' renewed efforts to follow social distancing and mask guidelines, as we wait for more in our community to become vaccinated.

**Annual Town Meeting Saturday, May 1 at 9 a.m.** – Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Hamilton-Wenham High School football stadium. For the third consecutive Town Meeting, we will be under a tent, socially distanced and hopeful for nice weather to help Town Meeting go smoothly.

The Town Meeting Warrant was sent to the printer last Saturday morning along with the Finance and Advisory Committee Book of Recommendations. Those books will be mailed to all households in the Town of Hamilton beginning on Thursday, May 22. All registered voters are eligible to attend Town Meeting and participate in the annual adoption of the budget and other legislative actions necessary for the regular operation of Town Government and the Schools for the 2022 Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1, 2021.



Anyone who is interested in getting a head start at reviewing the Warrant can do so by visiting the Town's website at [www.hamiltonma.gov](http://www.hamiltonma.gov) – where you can find the Warrant in PDF form.

**\$50,000 grant to help Downtown Businesses** – Congratulations to HW Shop Local and the Hamilton Development Corporation, who partnered with the towns of Hamilton and Wenham on a successful grant opportunity that will provide \$50,000 to help market local business in the Downtown District at the Hamilton and Wenham line on Route 1A.

The grant from the Massachusetts Office of Business Development will allow HW Shop Local to promote local businesses from Hamilton and Wenham across the North Shore and purchase needed marketing materials to help in that effort. The grant will also provide funds to host a "re-opening" event during the summer and pay for a consultant to help Shop Local become a self-sustaining organization.



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The grant was written with significant help by the Hamilton Development Corporation and HW Local, along with input from the administration teams in Hamilton and Wenham.

**Organics Ban takes effect May 1** – A final reminder to residents that Hamilton's new Organics Ban takes effect beginning the week of May 3. Trash cans that are not accompanied by Green Compost Bins at the curbside will not be picked up with the weekly trash collection.

Residents who have misplaced or otherwise lost their Green Compost Bins over the past few years are encouraged to contact the Department of Public Work for a new bin, prior to May 3. DPW does have extra bins available, at no cost, for residents who need them.



**Master Plan Steering Committee** – The Board of Selectmen is currently accepting applications for residents to be part of a Master Plan Steering Committee, which will work with the professional planning consultant hired by the Town to develop the Master Plan for Hamilton's future. This committee will likely need to meet at least once per month, and will be charged with working with the consultant to ensure as much public input as possible and vet all perspectives that come forward. The planning process will require people who can advocate for their positions and are tolerant of differing or even opposing views. To maintain the character and integrity of the Town, the community as a whole must engage in this year long discussion, and that discussion needs voices to lead it. Anyone willing to dedicate some time to help Hamilton plan its future, should apply as soon as possible by downloading the Committee Application on the Town's website and submitting it to Pat Shannon in the Town Manager's office. The Board of Selectmen will likely make appointment to the Steering Committee at its first meeting in May. Residents who do not feel they have the time to serve on the Committee can still get involved. The Master Plan process will take 12 to 15 months and will need residents to engage at different points to share their perspectives and discuss other suggestions.

**Website survey** – The Town's website provider, Stirling Technologies, is preparing an update to the Town's website and is looking for feedback from residents and users, to help improve the website, make it more user friendly and ensure up to date content on the page.

Take a few minutes and visit the website at [www.hamiltonma.gov](http://www.hamiltonma.gov) and take the survey – tell our website developer what works when you visit the page and what needs to be fixed.

While you're there, think about registered for the Town's new bi-weekly e-newsletter, to get town news emailed into your Inbox every other week.



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