

Town Manager Report – May 26, 2020

- Planning for an outdoor Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2020 continues and the town got good news from the state last week, when DPR confirmed to us that costs associated with holding the ATM outdoors due to the Coronavirus Pandemic will be reimbursable through the town's CARES Act funding. At this point we believe we will be able to keep the costs below \$20,000 for the ATM.
- Speaking of the CARES Act funding, the town has a deadline of June 5 to submit its list of COVID-19 response costs for the current fiscal year. The Town Manager's office is working closely with department heads across the organization to finalize those costs and to project what likely COVID-19 expenses we may incur between July 1 and Dec. 31 of 2020 (FY'21). I will provide the complete list of costs to the Board of Selectmen and Finance and Advisory Committee as we complete them. It is important to note that planned for expenses and expenses not related to our response to the pandemic ARE NOT eligible for reimbursement either through the FENA response grants or the CARES Act funding.
- By now, many residents are likely aware of the mobile testing site that was established in one Hamilton this neighborhood this past weekend. BOH Chair David Smith will join us this evening to provide a full report. However, the basic facts are that as a precaution the town tested 95 residents in one neighborhood this weekend, due to concerns of a possible cluster of cases. All 95 tests came back negative for COVID-19.
- The town continues to work with Recreation Director Sean Timmons and Wenham town officials to determine the extent to which summer recreation programs will be able to re-open. Sean and the two town's administration teams will be making presentations to our Boards of Selectmen and Finance and Advisory Committees as well as seeking the input of the two Boards of Health, to consider options and make recommendations, once the extent of new state requirements is fully known. At this point we are expecting the state to share its guidance by June 1.
- The staff at Town Hall is working to implement new safety precautions this week, with the hopes that we will be able to re-open to the public, beginning next week (June 1). Though that plan could still change, if new data or guidance suggests it is unwise to open at this time, we are planning to greet our residents at that time. We are still encouraging residents who DO NOT NEED TO COME TO TOWN HALL, to avail themselves of other options including the internet via the town website or the town's dropbox outside of Town Hall. The re-opening of Town Hall will not mean that other town buildings closed to the public, including the Recreation Center, Library and Senior Center will be re-opening as usual. Each of those departments will be following their own schedules based on resident needs and the relative safety and guidance provided by the state for each such function. Please continue to check the town website for updates or call the departments you wish to gain information from.