

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., Sep. 9, 2019

- A reminder about the Early Childhood Partners' Nature Scavenger Hunt at Patton Homestead on Wed., Sep. 18 from 10-11 a.m. A free story time event for children ages 0 to 5 years old and their parents/caregivers. It is a rain or shine event, interested parents/caregivers can learn more at www.EarlyChildhoodPartners.com
- The Town Administration – (aided and supported by representatives of the Board of Selectmen, the Finance and Advisory Committee and the Waste Reduction Committee), will be hosting a public discussion about the town's challenges concerning the costs of trash, recycling, compost collection and what our options are for reducing those costs and what our responsibilities for ensuring proper disposal of refuse is. This Public Trash Discussion will take place on Thursday, September 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Room at Town Hall. All interested members of the public are invited to attend to learn more about the town's current programs and the options for improving them.
- For the members of the Board of Selectmen, I have included for you all, information about an upcoming Floodplain Management Workshop planned for the North Shore and Merrimack Valley communities. This workshop will take place on Thursday, October 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Tewksbury. I will also be sharing this information with our Planning Board and other related committees and departments.
- DPW Director Tim Olson, Fire Chief Ray Brunet and I met with representatives of National Grid and Comcast last week to review the list of remaining double poles in Hamilton. We have identified a total of about six double poles, with most having been in place less than a month. Three of those poles require action by the town, and I have authorized Chief Brunet to take the necessary steps to remove our equipment from those poles. Another pole comes up on our list but appears to be in Wenham, and a fifth pole is in dispute. National Grid is taking the lead on that pole.
- I also include to the Board some information on upcoming fall roadway paving projects and other DPW projects that are getting ready to begin or are planned. The fall roadway paving includes roadway milling and paving on the following streets: Moulton St., Linden St., Highland St., Cutler Road, Rock Maple Road, Bridge St., Beech St., Woodbury St., Essex St. and Walnut Road. A complete press release including the areas of those streets to be repaved and approximate scheduling of the work will be released once the work plan is finalized.
- Tim Olson and I also met with Energy Manager Vicki Masone last week to discuss the initial findings of the Solar Feasibility study that was performed for the town by the Cadmus Group. The study looked at three possible building locations for rooftop solar in Hamilton, with the Public Safety Building appearing to be the most favorable location. The full report will be released to the public, once it has been reviewed and edited.
- Please remember to sign up to participate in FlashVote Community surveys – the town is currently in the process of establishing a virtual panel that can be invited to participate in one minute surveys four to six times per year. The important step now is to sign up to be a part of the panel by going to: www.flashvote.com/hamiltonma so that your voice can be heard. The occasional surveys will be developed with the help of FlashVote and will be designed to help the town government understand the general attitude of the town toward different projects and issues facing the community.

- Update on Town Manager Goals:

- Self-Sufficiency of the Patton Homestead – Patton Homestead Director Kaleigh Paré has scheduled a summit of partner organizations affiliated with the Patton Homestead to aid in the town’s efforts to support the Homestead and make the property more self-sustaining. The Patton Partners Meeting will include representatives of the PHI Board, the Wenham Museum, American Legion A.P. Gardener Post and others on Tuesday, Sep. 17 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Homestead.
- Chebacco Road/Well Exploration and Manchester – The Public Works Department and the town’s engineers from Woodard and Curran are seeking information from the public, and specifically from residents of Chebacco Road and the immediate neighborhood, as they prepare to start work on the paving project for Chebacco Road. The public meeting will take place on Tuesday, Sep. 17 at 6 p.m. in Memorial Room at Town Hall. As for well exploration and collaborations with Manchester by the Sea, I have begun the process of determining how and when the town may seek to investigate parcel(s) of land near Chebacco Road for sites for possible wells in the North Coastal Basin.
- Master Planning/ Housing Master Plan updates – The Planning Board and its consultants from JM Goldson, will be discussing the report of the update to the Housing Master Plan at Hamilton Senior Center on Thursday, Sep. 19 beginning at 7 p.m.
- Town Hall Renovations – The Town Hall Building Committee continues to prepare its request for Special Town Meeting and is in the process of answering several questions that were put forward by the Finance and Advisory Committee and others, in advance of STM. I have had a preliminary discussion with Town Moderator Bill Bowler about ensuring that the town has ample time to present information about both Town Hall renovation options at Special Town Meeting, in an effort to make sure that Town Meeting members are fully aware of the options and costs.