

Town of Hamilton Town Manager Report

For week of June 17, 2024

Department/ Project	Weekly Update	Timeline	Status
1. 133 Essex St. 40B proposal	1. The Hamilton Zoning Board of Appeals opened the hearing on the proposed 40B development at 133 Essex St. (Chebacco Hill) at its meeting in May voted to involve Safe Harbor, due to the project similarity to the previously denied Special Permit Application. On Friday, June 14, the town received word from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC) that the town's invocation of Safe Harbor has been upheld. The applicant may choose to appeal the HLC ruling to the Housing Appeals Court, or could choose to follow the hearing process for the 40B permit despite the Safe Harbor. We have not heard as yet what the applicant's plans are.	1. Unknown	1. Awaiting action from the applicant
2. Town offices at Patton Homestead	2. Just a reminder that many town offices have moved to the Patton Homestead, during the Town Hall renovation project. Bids are due back from subocointractors and General Contractors in the coming weeks and the town aspects the renovation to begin before the end of summer. The offices located at Patton Homestead include: Town Manager office, Finance Office, Treasurer, Assessors, Planning Department, Conservation Department, and Town Clerk. The Inspectional Services Department and Health Department are now permanently housed at the Council on Aging Building on Bay Road.	2. 18-24 months	2. On-going
3. North Shore Water Resiliency Task Force	3. The Town of Hamilton continues to work with the NSWRTF to map out a more resilient water source ofr the community. The NSRTF	3. Summer 2024 for reports	3. On-going

	has several studies that will be completed this summer. Through the efforts of Senator Bruce Tarr, Rep. Kristin Kassner and other legislators the Task Force has been able to secure additional funds in the upcoming state budget to help provide implementation funding for the recommendations of these reports.		
4. 2024-25 Goal Setting	4. The Select Board and Town Manager will meet Saturday, June 22 at 9 a.m. to discuss goal setting for the coming fiscal year.	4. Saturday, June 22	4. Planned
5. Bridge Street lot construction	5. Four houses are currently under construction and have completed their inspections through insulation and plaster stage and are in various stages of finish carpentry. The four homes are also in various stages with their landscaping. None of the other lots currently has pulled building permits.	5 Unknown	5. On-going
6. Summer Recreation program	6. Recreation Director Sean Timmons and his staff are off to another great summer with a total of 528 children registered for at least one session of summer recreation camp at Patton Park. Overall, there will be an average of 225 children per day taking advantage of the summer camp, except the week of July 4th, when the total will be a bit lower due to the holiday.	6. Summer 2024	6. On-going
Public Works		Timeline	Status
Facilities	 Hamilton Town Hall Sub-bids for the project were received on 6/17 and General Bids are due on 7/1 at 2pm. 	Construction Start Summer 2024	Out for Bid
DPW Administration	Employment Opportunities	Open	Open
Highway Dept	The Town still has two Truck Driver/Laborer openings. If interested please email Tim Olson @ tolson@hamiltonma.gov or call 978-626-5227 for position details. 1. Essex Street Drainage	On-going	Waiting for owner
	DPW continues to communicate with the engineering consultant and owner of 470 Essex Street in hopes of a collaborative effort to address drainage upgrades along Essex Street near Appaloosa Lane. No new update		and development submittal

	2. Roadway and Sidewalk Improvements	Summer 2024 bid	In-progress
	The TEC proposal has been accepted by Hamilton DPW and an agreement is being processed. Plans are to construct new sidewalks, repair existing, mill and overlay streets, and minor drainage improvements. The extent of this project is contingent on available funding and contractor bids. Planning and priority areas for roadway improvements are as follows: Chebacco Road, Miles River, Bridge Street. Sidewalk improvements are planned for Essex Street and Highland Street. The extent of the scope of work is still being discussed, but the town will make every effort to maximize the work with the budget available.		
	3. Route 22 Paving I am pleased to announce that Hamilton was chosen as a community to have Route 22 paved under the MassDOT Municipal Pavement Program. The full extent of the project and schedule has not yet been released.	Summer/Fall 2024	Selected by MassDOT
Vehicle Maintenance	New Purchased Vehicles The front line sander is estimated to arrive in	Ongoing	Sander in June
	Hamilton in June. 2. ATM Town Vehicles Following the 2024 ATM the town will purchase a new Trackless Sidewalk Machine,	July 2024	Pending
	the second front line sander, a new dump truck, and a new pick up truck, to replace our aging fleet. No new update.		
Cemetery	No Cemetery Updates		
Sanitation	No Sanitation Updates		
Parks and Grounds	1. Patton Park Improvements The DPW and Rec Dept. have re-engaged CBA Landscape Architects to discuss the first phase of drainage and park improvements as outlined in the Patton Park Master Plan. Conceptual cost estimates were discussed at the May 6th Select Board meeting. High	Fall/Winter 2024/2025	Preliminary Discussions

	priorities from the Patton Park Master Plan were drainage improvements and pathways. No new update.		
Energy	The Town is actively pursuing the installation of a solar array on the DPW Garage. On 2/6/2024 DPW and HEIC met with Senator Bruce Tarr to discuss the solar project as well as the Town Hall Renovation project and the importance of each energy component in the whole project. No new update.	Summer/Fall 2024 in conjunction with the Town Hall project	Under design
Water	1. Lead Service Inventory and Assessment The Water Department and hired consultant, Stantec Engineers, have continued to populate a service line inventory as mandated by EPA and MassDEP. Efforts have been made on the public side of the service connection, but please understand the required assessment and inventory also include the information from the private end of the service. The Hamilton Water Department has issued a notice included in your February water bill that includes information regarding the program and instructions on how to assist the department. As of 6/20/2024, 631 locations uploaded to the MassDEP web application, an increase from 617 back on 5/17/2024. This represents approximately 25% of Hamilton Water users. Let's keep up the momentum. If unable to use the MassDEP Web Application please either email Hamilton's DPW Director at tolson@hamiltonma.gov or call the Hamilton Water Department at 978-626-5226 to schedule an appointment. Again, your participation is appreciated. Stantee plans to initiate field inspections to assist Hamilton Water. There will be more information in the next few weeks regarding the field inspections and consultant support.	In-process	Working on data from public side, will be reaching out to private owners for cooperation
	2. GIS Asset Management The town has contracted with Dewberry Engineers to assist with establishing a GIS water asset management program. This GIS will initially be geared to the Hamilton Water	In-process	Gathering field data for system wide information

System but will then be populated with other attributes i.e. storm water, roadways etc. in the future. Currently our GIS consultant is working on a work order solution within the GIS platform that will allow citizen or department requests to be tracked and documented in GIS when completed. No new update.		
3. Well Maintenance The contractor has begun the annual redevelopment of our wells in the Idlewood Well Field. To date, Idlewood #2, Plateau Well, and Caisson Well have been redeveloped. No new update.	On-going	Idlewood 2, Plateau, and Caisson Well complete
4. Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) The Hamilton Water Department has partnered with Action Inc. to implement the LIHWAP to qualifying residents of Hamilton. This program will provide financial assistance	Implemented	Available
benefits to eligible residents. No new update. 5. Phase 5 Water Improvements Hamilton Water will begin the preliminary design efforts for a Phase 5 Water System Improvement project. Phase 5 Water System Improvements will be concentrated along Fox Run, Tally Ho, Oak, Plum, Chestnut, Pine, and other surrounding streets. The	Design by Fall 2024 Construction TBD	Seeking proposals
construction phase timeline will be contingent upon available funding and Town Meeting appropriation. 6. 2023 Consumer Confidence Report The Hamilton Water Department has begun formulating the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report. No new update.	Completed and available on the Town Website	Complete
7. Water Treatment Plant Filter Media Replacement Project This project will be funded by the Ipswich River WMA grant and includes the replacement of the spent Filtronics filter media in the existing water treatment facility to optimize the removal of iron and manganese prior to the processed water	Complete by June 30th	Under construction

	entering the new GAC filtration system. This will help maximize the new carbon media. The Town has an agreement for this work with low bidder Carbon Filtration Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$69, 120. The Town had previously purchased the filter media from Filtronics for \$109,100.00. No new update.		
Police			
1. Full-Time Hire(s)	We have recently hired Officer Jessica Eng as our newest Hamilton full time police officer. Jessica comes to us from the West Newbury Police Department.	June 1st	
Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission	We have successfully completed our accreditation assessment and have been approved for State Re-Accreditation.		
3. Sergeant Promotion	We are pleased to announce that Officer Michael Girolimon will be promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective Friday, June 21st.		
Fire Dept			
1 Department Stats	1 The Hamilton Fire Department responded to the following calls along with other department activities. In the previous two weeks we responded to 12 fire alarm activations, 17 ambulance calls, 2 mutual aid calls, 2 MVA, 0 brush fires and 4 public assist. We also conducted the following fire prevention activities, 10 inspections.	1 On-going	
2. Safe Grant	2. The Hamilton Fire Dept applied for the DFS Safe grant and Senior Safe grant to help bring educational programs into our elementary schools and our Senior Center.	2. On-Going	
3. Maintenance	Duty crews have begun inspecting fire hydrants and will be cleaning/removing rust & painting yellow hydrants red in the coming weeks	3. On-Going	

	ing and Inspectional ces				
1.	Master Plan	1.	MP Committee finished its work - document forwarded to Planning Board for review and adoption. Planning Board making numerous changes to the document.	Mid '24- when completed	On-going
2.	133 Essex St Senior Housing Project	2.	Applicant appealed Planning Board decisions; cases in Court	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.	133 Essex St 40B	3.	Formal application received late March heard by ZBA May 1, 2024. ZBA voted to exercise Safe Harbor which is being reviewed by State. Executive Office of Housing za7 livable Communities has honored the ZBA request	Unknown at present. if/when project restarts 180-210 day review decision period	Dependent o applicant
4.	Planning Board considering Form Based Zoning (FBZ) along with 3A; consultant hired.	4.	The work will include inytopduvtion of a new zoning for downtown area along with an approach to 3A zoning as well. Engagement has begun with a public forum June 12 and more to come	estimated Two zoning articles for public/town meeting vote are expected April 2025.	Ongoing
5.	MassHousing Partnership providing grants for T Communities Zoning. Fall town meeting	5.	Conceptual modeling / mapping work undertaken by MHP funded consultants. Town has received two grants from Mass Housing Partnership for early planning stages. Work completed and contributed to #4 above.	Work to assist/support FBZ/3A consultant team	Ongoing
6. 7.	Planning Board Site Plan review of Appleton Farms Parking Lot improvement project. Conservation Commission	6. 7.	Planning Board to vote on a decision April 18, 2024. Project approved with conditions. Seeking member (2) - pls contact if interested	6. July meeting likely	6. Near submission

Public Health Department			
1. Health Related	Currently we're experiencing 1 confirmed case of Lyme Disease, 2 confirmed cases of Tuberculosis reported, 2 cases of influenza and 1 case of Hepatitis B. Public Health clinics for the flu and bivalant boosters have ended, residents are encouraged to seek vaccines from their health care provider or health care clinic. If a resident can't receive one elsewhere they can call the Public Health Nurse. In addition, the health department still has a limited supply of single use gloves and bandages for distribution to the community - please call 978 417-6118 to order.	On-going	
2. Food Permitting and Inspection	Permitting of food establishments/food trucks is on-going for the 2024 year. Round 1 of food establishment inspection is nearing completion in accordance with appendix 5 of the 2013 food code. Summer camp and pool inspection has begun and should be completed soon.		
3 Septic	Soil tests, plan reviews and septic inspections are on-going along with permitting of septic haulers. We have processed 175 septic pumping reports, licenced 12 septic installers, 3 septic haulers, 2 title inspectors and 4 maintenance providers. We have completed 59 plan reviews, 5 title 5 reports, 7 soil tests and issued 8 certificates of compliance. The Health Dept. is on the verge of rolling out a new low interest betterment loan program that would benefit residents whose septic systems have failed and are in need of replacement. The application process will soon be complete.		
4. Animals	Permitting of animal keeping is on-going. Barn inspections have begun and the barn book will be completed and filed with the state. In accordance with Board of Health regulations, the new expiration date for animal keeping is August 31st of each year and the Board of Health is in the process of updating the Keeping of Animals regulation (last updated in 1989), in collaboration with neighboring communities. In an effort to update our archaic Board of Health		

5. New Programs

regulations, the board is investigating a draft private well regulation and will have a decision by next meeting. (Tobacco sales regulation has already been updated earlier this year)

The sharps collection/disposal program for Hamilton residents is on-going and a sharps collection container can be obtained from the Senior Center (299 Bay Road) taken home, filled and returned for disposal free of charge. Please contact the Health Dept. or the COA to take advantage of this program. Blood pressure screenings are on-going at Lamson Hall on the 2nd Wed. of each month from 3:30-5:30.

6. Public Health Concerns

Something you should be aware of; Cucumbers contaminated with salmonella are being linked to an outbreak that has sickened 162 people in 25 states (5 in Mass.) hospitalizing 54, according to the CDC and FDA. Fresh Start Produce Sales Inc. of Delray, Florida, has recalled whole cucumbers shipped to retail and food service distribution centers. The organism can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in the young, frail or elderly. Salmonella bacteria cause about 1.35 million infections, 26,500 hospitalizations and 420 deaths in the United States every year, with food being the source for most of the illnesses. The recalled vegetables were shipped in bulk cartons and are dark green, approximately 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter and five to nine inches long, (Mini and English cucumbers are not included in the recall.) If you have any of these vegetables, please don't eat them and discard or return for a refund. Call the company at 1-888-364-2993 for more info. Please stay safe and healthy.

	Also, If you haven't heard, Norovirus is up 5%. Please wash your hands frequently - hand sanitizer is NOT a substitute for proper hand washing. (no one has time to be sick) Stay hydrated during the heat wave. Please stay safe and healthy.		
<u>Finance</u>			
1. Year-End Budget Review	1. This is the time of year when each department takes a close look at their budget spending to ensure that transfers are not needed to cover unforeseen expenses throughout the year.		
2. FY25 ATM Warrant Articles	2. The Accounting team is working to get all certified FY25 ATM Warrant Articles on the books to secure funding and budgeting in each area of the town.		
Wage and Compensation Sheets Financial Policies	3. In collaboration with each department, Accounting ensures that each employee is assigned an approved wage and compensation rate. This tool helps payroll assign new FY25 rates and allows Accounting to ensure proper allocation of wages per department of the Town.		
4. I manolar i onolog	4. With advice from Hamilton's auditors, Finance began the preliminary process of policy adoption by delivering a summary		

5. Year-End Close

version to the Select Board on the draft Grant Management Policy, draft Procurement Conflict of Interest Policy, and draft Comprehensive Public Records and Technology Policy. FinCom has received these policies for review and will make a recommendation to the Select Board.

5. The fiscal year-end is June 30th. All departments will review payments to vendors to ensure all invoices have been received for FY24. Now through July 15th is extremely important to ensure funds are properly allocated to the correct fiscal year.

Treasurer/Collector

1 Tax Title

We fell a little behind schedule with FY23 Tax Title we are down to just 3 parcels With being short staffed we have decided to wait and process FY23 & FY24 tax titles together.

2 Billing

Working with Kelly and Ryan on our Preliminary Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for FY25. Also working to send out Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bill demands for FY24. Had to wait until the deferral process was completed. Commitment 3 for Motor vehicles has been mailed this week. Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills were mailed 6/10/24 due 6/24/24. 1st Qtr FY25 Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills will be mailed 6/28/24

3. Munis

Working with Munis to add 5 new deferrals for FY24 tax year.

Was able to add our 5 new deferral in munis this week and updated the interest rate to 2% Approved at special Town Meeting in Nov 2023

4 Benefits /Payroll

Open Enrollment and Summer Staff members is a very busy time for Sue with payroll and

5 Misc	benefits. She has a great handle on this process and she has worked hard to get a great system set up. Sue is preparing year end payroll at this time which has a lot of moving parts.
	Preparing for year-end at this point. Trying to get caught up with being one staff member down, it's been extremely busy in our office.

<u>rks</u>	& Recreation			
1.	Veterans Memorial Pool	Pool Opened this past weekend and as chances would have it we had a heat wave during the first week. The pool was extremely busy Tuesday - Thursday.	1. On-going	1. On-going
		Scan-ins: 574		
		Drop-ins: 107		
		On average 227 patrons a day over the three day period.		
		The Pool will be closed for the Community Block Party on Saturday, and will re-open on Sunday		
2.	Patton Park Summer Park Program	Camp Program starts on Monday. We are excited to get the program up and running. We will be extremely busy this summer averaging close to 225 children a day!		
3.	Community Block Party	Block Party is this Saturday starting around 4pm. Fireworks are set to go off at approximately 9 pm.		

Council on Aging

1. Programming

Upcoming programming includes celebrating National Watermelon Day, Amelia Earhart Day, Vanilla Ice Cream Day. We will have a fraud presentation with Brookline Bank. WE are working with a professional organizer, broker to discuss downsizing. We are looking for a new balance/fitness instructor. Reached out to several instructors from neighboring town and waiting to hear back.



Regular programming including the birthday party, bingo, arts and crafts, knitting, book club, and yoga continued. We continued to offer our Fit over 50 class, yoga. Indoor bocce has come to end and moved back to Wenham. We will continue to hold the space on Thursday morning in case of rain. Indoor pickleball has also ended we will be starting outside at Patton Park on Wednesday May 15th.

Retirement calls continue to come in about shine sign ups. When people come in I remind them that space fills up fast from October-December so if they will need help with open enrollment they should call ahead. Or going over how to look it up themselves. Shine certification has been completed. I passed the exam this year. And will be all set to continue to help residents throughout the year and during open enrollment. We had a couple residents that looked into becoming SHINE representatives but due to scheduling and location of training were unable too.

We have given out several ipads and chromebooks. The things that we need to set up the public computers so those will be set up by the beginning of next week.

Ongoing

Ongoing

Ongoing

2. Shine

3. Grants

	We had an introduction to the grant and received from interest in it. Hoping to continue to gain interest.	
	We have hired an instructor that will be helping at both Rowley and Hamilton. Residents will be able to go to either class. We are also looking into purchasing a drawing app and apple pencils through the grant so that we can offer more. Tablets have been purchased and should be here within the next couple of weeks. We are scheduling an information session the beginning of April so that we can distribute them to interested residents. There will be a sign out procedure. April 1st 1t 11:00 is the tablet talk.	
4. Newsletter	July newsletter has gone to print. LPI will be coming to the area to meet with area businesses in hopes of being able to keep our newsletter free to us. Increase of pages has been successful. We are also asking that if residents come into the senior center that they pick up their newsletter here, or they opt to get it via email from the agency. June newsletter just went to print. Second month of increased pages was more successful than last month.	
Human Resources		
1. Openings	1. Current Openings:	
	 Regional Public Health Nurse: Towns of Hamilton, Essex, Wenham, and Rockport Water Truck Driver/Laborer DPW Truck Driver/Laborer Accounts Receivable Specialist in the Treasure/Collector Office: Job re-posted. 	
2. Collaboration	2. Finalized Regional Health job descriptions will be posted with anticipated changes of position.	

	Regional Public Health NurseHealth Inspections (pending)		
	Working with Union and DPW on succession planning.		
Employee Engagement A. Notifications	 Planning for a Building Department open house. Developing an Employee Engagement survey focussed on team building and enrichment. Working with MIIA on Health and Wellness programs for town employees in the Spring/Summer. 		
	Attending a Racial Equity Advancement & Collaborative Hub (REACH) program in Boston. Hosted by the Metropolitan Planning Council. Next meeting scheduled 5/8		
Town Clerk's Office			
2024 Conflict of Interest Annual Filings MGL C. 268A	All municipal employees (including board and committee members) received an email from the State Ethics Commission regarding Ethics on-line training requirements. I followed up with an additional email reminder. While most completed the training in 2023 and will not need to take it again until 2025, EVERY municipal employee MUST acknowledge receipt of the summary EVERY YEAR. On 5/14/24 I sent another reminder to Elected Officials that are behind. On June 4 I sent a reminder email to 39 elected and appointed officials. Approx 15 have responded!	Jan - Dec	Year round
2024 Dog License Renewals MGL C. 140 s.137, 137A	In 2023 we issued 1150 dog licenses. Anne has issued an additional 62 dog licenses bringing 2024 to 923. Late fees kicked in in June.	Jan - Dec	Never ending!
DBA MGL C. 110 s.5	"Doing Business As" renewals due every 4 years; approx 40 to be renewed in calendar year 2024. We issued 49 in 2023. We have issued an additional 9 (16 total) in 2024.	Jan - Dec	Several more expected

Move to Patton Homestead The Town Clerk's office is stopping at the COA November every day to gather all mail from the drop box 2023 and bring it to Town Hall and also to drop off and pick up mail at the post office. 2024 election dates: March 5 Presidential Nov 2023 -Primary, April 11 Annual Town Election; State 2024 Election Season = 4 Elections [2 Nov 2024 down and 2 to go!] PLUS A RECOUNT Primary Sep 3 (the day after Labor Day); Nov 5 State/Presidential Election. **VOTE BY MAIL:** We have processed 1119 applications for mailed ballots in 2024. Each application for "All Elections" required the completion of 3 separate early voting records in the voter system (including the local election) for a total of 3357 requests! **IN PERSON EARLY VOTING:** All state elections will involve in-person early voting at the Patton Homestead. Only 57 voters voted early in-person for the Pres Primary. **MARCH 5 PRES PRIMARY:** A total of 1902 voters voted (691 or 36.3% voted by mail), Turnout was 32.89%. We mailed 1044 ballots, 353 or 33.8% were never returned. The recount for the race for Republican State Committee Man went well, not one vote changed in Hamilton. **APRIL 11 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION:** Turnout was 783 voters, 13.5%. We mailed 1001 ballots to those who requested "all elections" on the postcard, 313, or 31%, were never returned. Elected Officials have all been sworn in. State (Sept) Primary Ballot - Nomination We received 87 pages of nomination papers Papers for Congress, US Senate, State and certified 790 voter signatures. Senate, State Representative, Clerk of Courts, Registrar of Deeds, Governor's Council State (Nov) Ballot - Initiative Petitions We received 214 pages of petition papers and a.k.a Ballot Questions certified 346 voter signatures. There are 9 petitions circulating, 5 are likely to be on the ballot. 2024 Hamilton Census/Street List The 2024 Census Form was mailed to 2822 Jan 2024 households mid-January. Forms were due process Dec 2024 MGL C.51 s.4 back in 10 days. The mailing included the dog

license renewal form and the 2024 trash

2024 Voter Inactivation MGL C.51 s.37	schedule. We have updated 1968 forms in the voter system. Approximately 30% of forms have NOT been returned. We have manually updated information for all residents living at the Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. On June 3 I marked 1322 voters as inactive in the voter registration system because they had not returned the Census form. Do they still live in Hamilton? Each will receive a postcard in the mail asking that they confirm that they still reside in Hamilton. This process ensures an accurate voter registration list.		
April 6, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Follow Through	A total of 573 voters were checked in. 1. All votes have been certified and delivered to the Dir of Finance and to the Treasurer. 2. Letters have been sent to Sen. Tarr, Rep. Kassner, Sen. Collins and Rep. Cabral regarding our support for a new Commonwealth flag. 3. Letter was sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth regarding our acceptance of C.32 s. 4(2)(b) 4. ATM Minutes have been completed and are posted on the Town Clerk webpage.		
ANNUAL FLAMMABLE STORAGE PERMITS AND REGISTRATIONS	In coordination with Chief Brunet, we have sent out seven (7) applications for permits and registrations for Hamilton properties with a license to store and/or sell combustibles. Six of seven have been returned.	Apps due April 30.	DONE
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