

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, AICP, Town Manager
Date: June 8, 2016
Re: **Manager's Report**

News & Noteworthy:

- 1) Transfer Station – On May 20th we had a fire in one of our hauling contractor's trailers which parked at the back of the Transfer Station for demolition and bulky materials. Although initial reports came in as a structure fire it was just the materials in the trailer and the structure in the adjacent picture is the retaining wall from which residents throw their materials.

- 2) We have been experiencing vandalism at the pool and recreation complex recently with broken picnic tables, people on the roof of the pool building, etc. We ask all residents that if you see something happening or hear of those responsible please say something.
- 3) Tax bills have been issued and need to be paid by July 7th. Online payment will be available by June 15th but hopefully sooner.
- 4) June 6-10 the town's basketball and tennis courts will be closed for annual crack sealing maintenance. The tennis wind screens will be put up following the sealing.
- 5) Those interested in running for State office can file until June 10, 2016 at 5 PM.
- 6) The Bedford Pool is tentatively scheduled to open June 19th (Father's Day).
- 7) Summer reading signup for children began on June 6th and the adult and teen program signups start on June 13th.
- 8) Congratulations to the Bedford High School for winning State Championships in boys and girls tennis!
- 9) The Bedford Grand at BVI had a soft opening this past weekend and I understand their Grand Opening will be on June 18th (more information will be provided once it is available). Please stop by to see this beautiful addition to our community.
- 10) The new Hannaford's Store on South River & Kilton Roads is nearing completion and will celebrate its Grand Opening on June 18th with a preview on June 17th. I hear the inside of the store is impressive.

Project Updates:

- 1) We continue to monitor and work on the PFOA water contamination issue and a neighborhood meeting was held with residents of Green Meadow Road on May 31st and a town wide public forum was held on June 2nd. I am anticipating the first results for properties

around the Merrimack landfill to be available in the next 7-10 days if not before. Depending on the results of the next round of samples in the Saint-Gobain study area I will again pursue having design meetings for extension of public water to the study area. DES has indicated that they would prefer to know the extent of the contamination area before initiating the design work. Water samples from the Bedford landfill monitoring wells have been taken and we anticipate results in approximately 3 weeks. A public forum has been scheduled to be held in Merrimack on June 29th at 7:00 PM which is open to all public not just Merrimack residents.

- 2) The Library HVAC/Geothermal project is progressing as scheduled and the upstairs is closed for approximately 3 weeks.
- 3) The Town Hall Roof replacement is underway and the chimney rebuilding work has been completed and the roof shingle asbestos abatement has been initiated. We expect the building to be closed entirely the first two weeks of June and during the day for an additional week.



- 4) Website - The final design changes on the aesthetics and function of the new town website continue which has delayed our unveiling but we still hope to have it completed by the end of June.
- 5) Wallace Road reconstruction between Beals Road and the Merrimack town line has been completed to the point where base pavement have been installed and work now moves north between Beals and Wiggin Roads. The South River Road TIF Area improvements continue with the intention to complete the TIF project including final pavement on South River Road during the month of July (this is modification since the last report) and we are needing to delay the portion between Kilton Road and Meetinghouse Road.
- 6) Sewer Billing – DPW and Finance staff continue to work through the back-billing issue have will be discussing the matter with the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee during their June 8th meeting in anticipation of providing a recommendation to the Council at the June 29th meeting.
- 7) Insurance – The Finance and Personnel Department has solicited and received proposals for our medical, dental, FSA, short & long term disability programs and our current vendor (Health Trust) produced a total package that represents a 4.9% increase (2015 was 8.7%). The Health Trust medical portion represents a 2.6% increase and we are told the national trend is 7-8%. Other vendors (Schoolcare, NHIT) came in with similar price packages but nothing that provided the same comprehensive program. Other vendors informed us they declined to quote due to uncompetitive pricing or as a result of having high risk employees.
- 8) Personnel – The Finance Department has hired two front window clerks, one which replaces the unexpected vacancy from last month and one to replace Lee who has been promoted to

our finance clerk position. Lee will still be located in the service area and will provide backup and coverage when needed. The new accountant position remains unfilled as a result of the lack of applicants. Similarly the response to vacant Assistant Planning Director position has been limited so interviews were held back slightly longer than anticipated to provide more time for applications to be received. Our Police Department has made a conditional offer for our vacant patrol position, however they anticipate two retirements later this year. We also have a vacant equipment operator position in DPW as a result of a retirement.

Events:

- June 11th – Bedford High School Class of 2016 Graduation, 10 AM. Last day of school is the 15th.
- June 14th – The Bedford Farmers Market kicks off for the 2016 season on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church.
- June 17th – Hannaford’s Preview Party, 5-7 PM with community donations & remarks at 6 PM.
- June 18th – Hannaford’s Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting, 7:00 AM.
- June 18th – Strawberry Festival, 11 AM – 3 PM at the Pool/Recreation Complex to benefit the Friends of the Bedford Cemeteries.
- June 21st – Judy Pancoast kicks off of our Tuesday Evening, 26th Annual Family Cultural Series, at 6 PM at the Pool/Recreation Complex Performance Stage. The remaining Tuesday concerts are on 6/28, 7/5, & 7/12.
- June 25th – The Bedford Historical Society 11th Annual Car Show, 139 New Boston Road, 10 AM – 2 PM.
- June 30th – Concerts in the Park start with the Manchester Community Music School at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common. Concerts continue on Thursday nights through August 11th.

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 9th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- ~~June 13th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board~~
- **June 14th – 5:00 PM, Town Council - Consultation with legal counsel**
- June 14th – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission
- June 20th – 7:00 PM, WBNH-LPFM Board of Overseers
- June 21st – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- June 23rd – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- June 27th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- June 28th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- June 28th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **June 29th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**

* * * * *