

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: June 4, 2020
Re: **Manager's Report**

News & Noteworthy:

- 1) Route 101 Paving – The State is currently planning to pave the eastbound lanes of Route 101 this Saturday, June 6th and the westbound lanes on Wednesday, June 10th. Residents are encouraged to avoid Route 101 during both days as traffic will be down to one lane in each direction and diverted to the same side of the median island. This is a change to the previously schedule where the westbound lanes were going to be paved on June 13th.
- 2) I am saddened to note that Herman "Herk" Streitburger, our holder of the Boston Post Cane which is awarded to our oldest resident, passed away on May 29th at nearly 101 years young. Mr. Streitburger was a member of the Greatest Generation serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II where he was shot down on his 50th and final mission in Europe and spent a year in a German prison camp. Nominations for another resident to be awarded the Cane will be sought in the coming weeks.

- 3) COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Bedford remains one of most impacted communities with **over 100 current COVID-19 positive patients** with impacts in some of our long term care facilities as well as the general community. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself when out completing necessary travel during the Stay at Home 2.0 Order. Those recommendations include wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible. Our emergency personnel are continuing to respond to multiple COVID-19 calls a day.
- 4) COVID-19 Relief Funds and Acts. In the past week we issued the State's first responder stipends and submitted our March and April expenses allowed under the GOFERR grant which totaled \$22,116.
- 5) Motor Vehicle Registration – The lobby of the Town Office Building is open 10 AM – 4 PM for motor vehicle registration and other bill payments ONLY. At risk members of our community or anybody else who is not comfortable coming in with the general public can make an appointment for weekday morning 8-10 AM by contacting the department at 472-3550 or MV@BedfordNH.org. Motor vehicle registrations also includes boats and trailers. We do encourage people to continue taking advantage of online or mail in options whenever possible as

maximum occupancy in our lobby is 4 customers. **Please wear a face covering and keep a 6 foot separation to others when coming to the building.** Offsite payment options can be found on our website <https://www.bedfordnh.org/819/Online-Bill-Payment>.

- 6) Public Library – The Library is offering contactless curbside pickup of library materials for cardholders 10 AM – 2 PM, Monday - Saturday.
- 7) Bedford Cares – continues to provide an incredible service to members of our community who are in need of assistance with such things as shopping and picking up of prescriptions while also making donations to the Bedford Food Pantry that now exceeds well over 1,000 pounds of food. If you need their support please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordNHCares/>. I can't thank Councilor Ricciardi enough for her continued relentless efforts.
- 8) Tennis Courts were able to be opened on May 19th in keeping with of the Governor's approval of Stay at Home 2.0 guidelines for outdoor attractions. The pool, basketball courts, skateboard park, playgrounds remain closed and we continue to monitor the Governor's Reopening Recommendations for guidance on how to move forward with these facilities. It is possible these items may need to stay closed at least through the Stay at Home 2.0 order. We are looking closely at keeping the pool closed for the year as a way to save costs, especially if physical distancing requirements will force us to have a very limited number of participants at any one time. The current guidance would only allow for reserved in advanced lap swim or aerobic classes. Given the pool layout it would mean 3 people in the pool at any one time and likely 6 people an hour if we provided 30 minute time slots. The Bedford Swim Team has cancelled their season.
- 9) Summer Concert Series – We have had to cancel our June Summer Concert Series dates due to the 10 person limit on public gatherings, but we are hopeful that we can be together at the Bedford Village Common in July.
- 10) The last day to file as a candidate for State office is Friday, June 12, 2020.
- 11) Tax bills have been mailed with a July 1st due date. The first bill of the year is based on the tax rate set in 2019 with property valuation updates made for any changes to the property completed by April 1, 2020. If you have not received your bill you should contact the tax office.
- 12) The Bedford Library Summer Reading Challenge for adults, teens, and kids will run June 15- July 31, 2020 with a kickoff event being held on June 16th at 2 PM. The theme this year is, "Imagine Your Story".
- 13) The Bedford Farmers Market opens June 16th and continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM through September at the Harvest Market parking lot.
- 14) Student Parking Passes – We are coordinating with the School District to award student parking passes in Town lots as part of the lottery system that the District already does so to avoid the long early morning line that formed at the Town Office Building last year.

15) Drought – All of southern NH has entered a condition defined as “abnormally dry” which is predicted to continue to worsen to where drought is likely. I would encourage all residents to implement water conservation measures now like only watering vegetable garden crops, watering no more than every other day, and watering in the morning or evening where less water is lost to evaporation.

**U.S. Drought Monitor
New Hampshire**

June 2, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
 None
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

16) 2020 Census – Bedford currently has a response rate of 79.7% which is third in the State. I would love to see Bedford be the first community to reach 100%. Please complete the Census by going to <https://my2020census.gov/> It truly takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Project Updates:

- 1) 2020 Roads Program – The Donald Street area has been completed and work continues in the Blanford Place and Hitching Post Road areas. The South River Road project is scheduled to start at the end of June.
- 2) Tennis Court Resurfacing – The County Road Tennis Court resurfacing project has been completed. Funds for this project were put in place in 2019.
- 3) Village Common Fence Replacement – As part of the Route 101 widening project the Town Council agreed to use funds received from the sale of Town owned land for the project to replace the fence along the Common. Work was originally expected to start now, but we have been notified that it will be delayed due to supply problems with the manufacturer. The fence will be similar in style to the existing fence but be vinyl for ease of maintenance and will also match fencing to be installed by the State along the roadway in certain areas.
- 4) 2019 Audit – The Finance team has completed the first draft of our 2019 financials and CAFAR with no significant issues identified. We expect to have the final CAFAR by the end of June and present it to the Council in July or August.
- 5) Pulpit Rock Conservation Area Improvements – Phase II of our improvements to trails and bridges at the Pulpit are underway and should be provide the large number of additional hikers we have been experiencing during the pandemic better access and an improved overall experience.
- 6) DPW Permit Link Software – is expected to go live next week providing the public and contactors better service for all items related to DPW. This was funded in 2019.

- 7) Library Painting - A contract has been awarded following a public bid process to paint the exterior of the Library and work should commence soon. Funding is through the 2020 facilities department operating budget.
- 8) Personnel: An offer has been made to fill our second Communications Specialist position which if accepted would bring us to full staffing in that department. An offer has been made for one certified police officer position and a non-certified officer position is pending a background check and if approved would have the officer in the Police Academy this summer. If these two police officer positions are filled and there are no other changes we would be fully staffed for the first time in several years. All other hiring's have been placed on hold at this time and will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine if they should be filled during the initial phases of the pandemic.

Events:

- June 16th - Summer Reading Kickoff Event, 2 PM, being presented virtually, please register through the Library website or Facebook page.
- June 27th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 8th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- ~~June 9th – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission~~
- **June 10th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- ~~June 11th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee~~
- June 16th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- June 22nd – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- June 23rd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- June 23rd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **June 24th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- June 25th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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