

MEMORANDUM

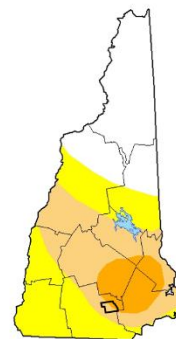
To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: December 11, 2020
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford unfortunately continues to see an increase in the number cases with **125 current COVID-19 positive patients**. It is my understanding that **our current cases are a result of significant community spread** and some cases in long term care facilities. We need to continue to be as cautious as possible when out in the public. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself including wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible. **The State's guidelines for traveling out of New England now recommends quarantining for 10 days when you return**. Organizationally we continue to have employees out due to being positive or having family members who are or due to exposures to positive people. We are also working collectively to assist those with students at home or in hybrid situations.
- 2) 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. If you need their support or want to help please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordNHCares/>.
- 3) Drought – Bedford and a much of southern NH **has been reduced one level but remains in the condition defined as "Moderate Drought"** with the northeast portion of Bedford generally along the Performance Zone remaining in "Severe Drought" down from "Extreme". We are aware of Bedford residents having water supply problems. It is imperative that all residents and businesses continue water conservation measures.
- 4) PFAS – NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing private wells in southeastern Bedford now that the PFAS standards have been adopted into law. It is unknown how long it will take before we know what solutions will be proposed. If you have received a request for well testing it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.
- 5) Santa's Mailbox – Time is running out to get letters to Santa in time for Christmas. Our direct mailbox to Santa remains available until Friday, December 18th in the Town Office Building Lobby. Santa's helpers have asked that you be sure to print your name and address clearly on your letter

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Hampshire



December 8, 2020
(Released Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

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 <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>.

Author:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



6) I would like to thank the Bedford Garden Club for again supplying our public buildings with beautiful holiday wreaths. The Club also provides and cares for flowers at the Town Office Building the rest of the year which truly improves the experience for visitors and employees.



7) Property owners have been very responsive with on time payment of taxes that were due on December 1st with a response rate of over 96%. The Tax Rate has been set at \$20.02 up from \$18.95 or \$1.07 (5.65%) for 2020.

8) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.

9) The Recreation Department has new socially distant classes starting up in January for Little Scientists and Little Artists, please see their website or Facebook page for more information.

10) The Supervisors of the Checklist have appointed Rebecca Kuhns to fill the vacancy created by former Supervisor Beverly Yuksel resigning at the end of November. Much appreciation goes out to Mrs. Yuksel for all of her hard work and long hours on the 4 elections this year.

Project Updates:

1) 2020 Roads Program – The program has essentially ended for the year with the repaving of Beals Road and base pavement being installed on Gage Girls Road. Limited drainage and grading work may continue on Fosters Place as weather permits. An update on the program will be provided to the Council and community at the December 16, 2020 Council meeting.

2) Sportsman Field reconstruction is wrapping up for the winter with the milestone of having the light pole footings placed.

3) The Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Operations Plan updates both continue to have meetings and will be completed over the next couple of months.

4) Personnel: Lt. Michael Bernard has announced his retirement and the department will be conducting a socially distant celebration of his career on December 18, 2020 from 11-1 at the Safety Complex. I can't say enough of how much Lt. Bernard has meant to the department, the community, and to me in my role as Planning Director and as Town Manager. Lt. Bernard will be incredibly missed by our entire organization. Matt Lavoie has started as Building Code Official and comes to us with several years of experience in a similar position in the town of Hooksett. An offer has been made for our open IT position. We have one opening in the Library for a part time clerk. Two officers are graduating from the Police Academy this month and will enter our field training program. We have started hiring for our current and upcoming openings in the Fire Department including 3 female firefighters bringing our total to 4. The testing and selection process for our 4 new shift Captain positions is currently under way.

Events:

- December 15th – Last day for for “Toys for Tots” sponsored by the Bedford Police Department, 8 AM – 4 PM at the Public Safety Complex.
- December 17th – “Virtual Volunteer Fair”, 3-4:30 PM for anyone interested in learning how they can volunteer for groups like Meals on Wheels and The Care Givers you are encouraged to attend. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/bedford-vvf-2020> or call 669-4664 for information.
- December 18th – Last day for the “2020 Holiday Coloring Contest”, 5-10 year olds are encouraged to enter the contest by downloading the coloring page from the Recreation website or Facebook page.
- December 19th – BCTV Presents a “Virtual Visit with Santa”, 9-11 AM, RSVP to BCTV@BedfordTV.com by December 17, 2020. All ages are invited to tell their wishes to Santa via Zoom!
- December 24th – The Library will be closing at 1 PM. The Town Office Building and Transfer Station will be closing at 3 PM.
- December 25th – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed.
- January 1st – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed.

Upcoming Meetings:

- December 15th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **December 16th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- December 17th – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- December 17th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- December 21st – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- December 22nd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- December 22nd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- January 5th – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- January 7th – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers
- January 11th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (1st Zoning Amendment Public Hearing)
- **January 13th – 7:00 PM, Town Council** (1st Budget Public Hearing)
- January 14th – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Committee
- January 19th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- January 21st – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- January 25th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (2nd Zoning Amendment Public Hearing)
- January 26th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- January 26th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **January 27th – 7:00 PM, Town Council** (2nd Budget Public Hearing)
- January 28th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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