

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: February 18, 2021
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) Absentee ballot applications and sample ballots for the March 10th Election are available from the Town Clerk or her website: <https://nh-bedford.civicplus.com/491/Election-Information>
- 2) The Library team has completed a Voter's Guide based on responses provided by the candidates for the open town and school positions. Copies are available at the Library and Town Office Building or online at: <https://bedfordnhlibrary.org/>
- 3) The Budgetary Town Meeting Handout has been completed and have been posted on the Town Website for the public's review at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/4980/2021-Town-Meeting-Handout>
- 4) Zoning Amendments - The Planning Board has moved 3 zoning amendments to the March 9, 2021 ballot. The amendments can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/4919/2021-Zoning-Amendment-Legal-Notice>
- 5) The last day to register to vote or to make name and address changes prior to the March 9th Election is Saturday, February 27, 2021. The Town Office Building will be open on Saturday, February 27, 2021, 11:30 AM – Noon for the purpose of voter registration and changes only. Residents may also register to vote at the polls on Election Day.
- 6) As a reminder political signs are not permitted in any traffic island or on any town owned land without approval of the Town Council.
- 7) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford thankfully has seen a drop in our number of cases with **32 current COVID-19 positive patients**. It is my understanding that **our current cases are a result of community spread as well as some spread 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.
- 8) 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 Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/bedfordnhcares/>

2021
Bedford Voter's Guide
For Town Elections



This pamphlet was compiled by the Bedford Public Library's Reference Department in conjunction with Town Clerk Sally Hatten. All information contained in this pamphlet was provided voluntarily by the candidates.

9) The Library is hosting a "Countdown to Spring" reading challenge with some very nice prizes for the grand prize winners. Please visit the library website for information.

10) 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.

11) Drought – Bedford and a much of southeastern NH remains in the condition defined as "Abnormally Dry". Unfortunately northwestern NH has fallen back to abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions after having been cleared from the drought.

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



February 16, 2021
(Released Thursday, Feb. 16, 2021)
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 <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CI/CPC



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

Project Updates:

- 1) 2020 Financial Audit – The audit team work each day during the first week of February and staff responded to all of their requests without issue. The audit will continue into the spring.
- 2) 2020 Master Plan – The Planning Staff and review committee are working toward a final draft to be released soon.
- 3) Personnel – The Library Trustees have promoted Miriam Johnson to the Head Librarian position. The Fire Department has promoted Adam Parent and David Sherwood to Lieutenant, Michael Jolin, Stephen Bateman, Aaron Lambert, and Erik Thomas to Shift Captain, and Timothy Lavoie to Captain of Risk Reduction & Administration.

Events:

- **March 9th – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**
- **March 10th – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**
- April 17th – Clean up Bedford Spring Event, 9 AM - 3 PM.
- June 19th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~February 22nd – 7:00 PM, Planning Board~~
- ~~February 23rd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee~~
- **February 24th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- February 25th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

- ~~March 2nd – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission~~
- March 8th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- **March 9th – 7:00 AM-7:00 PM, Elections/Voting**
- **March 10th – 7:00 PM, Budgetary Town Meeting**
- March 11th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- **March 15th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- March 16th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- March 18th – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- March 22nd – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- March 23rd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- March 23rd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- March 25th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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