

# MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
Date: July 16, 2021  
Re: **Manager's Report**

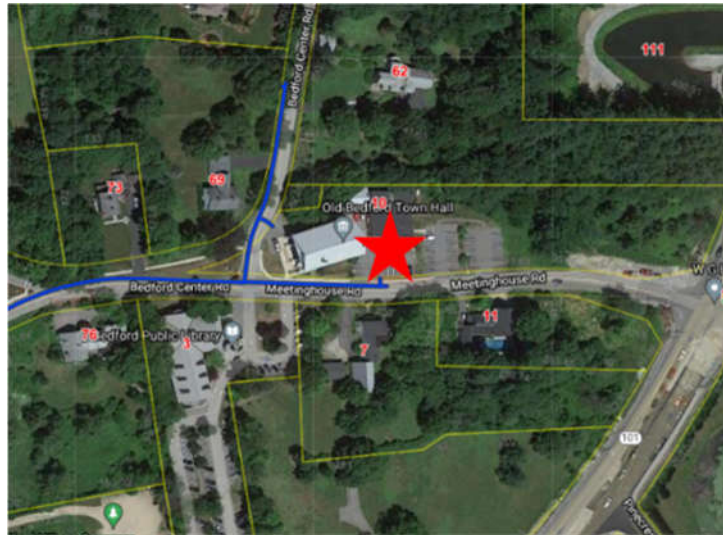
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## News & Noteworthy:

1) **A Special Election for State Representative will be held on September 7, 2021 from 7AM-7PM at the Bedford High School.** This Special Election is being conducted to fill the seat vacated with the passing of former Representative Dave Danielson. There are two candidates Linda Rae Camarota (R) and Catherine A. Rombeau (D). Absentee ballots can be requested through the Town Clerk's office.

2) PFAS Contamination – On June 29<sup>th</sup> NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) notified the Town that we are a potential responsible party for the apparent pollution of groundwater in and around 10 Meetinghouse Road from the use and storage of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) (commonly known as firefighting foam) at the former fire station (now BCTV) at 10 Meetinghouse Road. NHDES is requiring the Town to conduct a Focused Site Investigation that must be completed by a professional engineer. The investigation will include documenting the history of AFFF use and storage, abutting well testing, the potential installations of ground water monitoring wells, and potential solutions for those impacted. Bottled water is being provided to those already identified as being impacted or that are identified in the future.

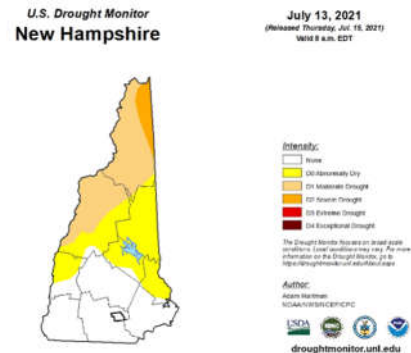


3) PFAS Contamination – NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing a large number of private wells in southeastern Bedford but unfortunately they have not announced any remediation steps yet while they wait for more data. If you have received a request for well testing from Golder Associates it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.

4) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford currently has 6 current COVID-19 positive patients and has had a total of 2,076 cases. 55.2% of NH residents are currently vaccinated and when it was last reported on June 24, 2021 Bedford was shown to have 55.5% fully vaccinated residents and 61.2% with one dose.

5) Bedford resident Morgan Stickney rated number one in the world for 400-meter freestyle swimming will be representing the USA in the upcoming Paralympic Games in Tokyo Japan.

- 6) Jon Levenstein, former longtime Chairman of the Planning Board has been named 2021 Citizen Planner of the Year by the NH Planners Association. This is a tremendous honor and is a reflection of his 25 years of service to the community on the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Historic District Commission.
- 7) Drought – For the first time since May 19, 2020 (14 months) Bedford is no longer in any category of drought. Drought conditions persist in central and northern NH.
- 8) 2021 Revaluation - The town is completing a revaluation process this year and preliminary values will be mailed to each taxpayer on or around the end of July. As part of that mailing you will receive information about how to schedule a hearing should you want to question your assessment. It is important that you do not estimate your projected tax bill based on our current tax rate as it will change based on several factors.
- 9) Route 101 at Pulpit Brook & Twin Brook Lane – The NHDOT is moving forward with their plans to replace the Route 101 bridge over Pulpit Brook and to add a westbound left turn lane for Twin Brook Lane. Construction expected to start in the late fall and continue to the summer of 2023. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained throughout the majority of the project. The left turn lane will be a great safety improvement for the residents of Twin Brook Lane and everyone who uses the corridor.
- 10) The Bedford Pool and Splash Pad are open for the season with open swim between 11 AM-7 PM on week days and noon to 5 PM on weekends and holidays.
- 11) The Bedford Farmers Market continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM until October at Primary Plaza parking lot.
- 12) The Bedford Citizens Police Academy is returning this fall, for those interested in joining the class please contact the Police Department



### Project Updates:

- 1) 2021 Roads Program – Old Mill Road and Fosters Place both have progressed to base pavement. Many roads throughout town are receiving pavement overlays. In early August the remaining portion of South River Road that was not paved a few years ago in the area of Whole Foods and Market & Main will be paved.
- 2) Personnel – There are currently 3 openings in the Highway Department and 3 others are out on medical leave. The Police Department has 4 patrol openings with 2 offers pending, the Records Clerk position has been filled, and there is 1 opening in dispatch with 2 candidates pending. Interviews for the Assistant Assessor position have been completed and an offer is pending with the top candidate. Our Accounts Payable position in Finance has been filled allowing for the department to be fully staffed for the first time in a long time, however one member is out on extended leave. The Deputy Town Clerk has announced her retirement,

this position can only be filled by Bedford residents. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk for more information.

**Events:**

- Summer Concert Series – Runs every Wednesday night through August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common.
  - July 21 NH Ukeladies
  - July 28 Knock on Wood (Family Fun Show)
  - August 4 Windham Swing Band (6:30 PM)
  - August 11 60's Invasion
  - August ?? Studio Two (Beatles Tribute) Date to be determined
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – National Night Out at 6 PM, Selvoski Field with a softball game between Bedford Fire and Police Departments.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – Friends of Aine, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Kid's Try-Athlon, Bedford Recreation Complex & High School, 8 AM.
- August 19<sup>th</sup> – Bedford Rotary, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Trails to Ales 2K & 5K, 5:30 PM, Legacy Park.
- September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fire & Police Department combined Open House, Safety Complex, 55 Constitution Drive, 5-7 PM.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- ~~July 16<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee~~
- July 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- July 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **July 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- July 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- July 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- **August 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- August 16<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- ~~August 20<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee~~
- August 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- August 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- August 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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