

# MEMORANDUM

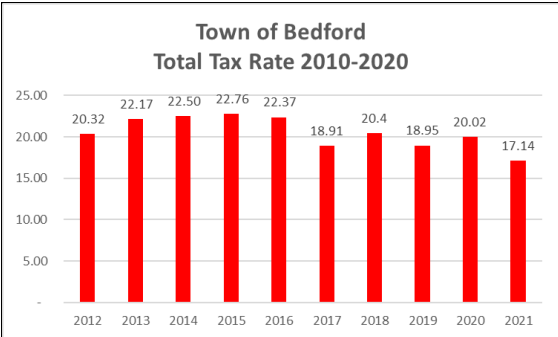
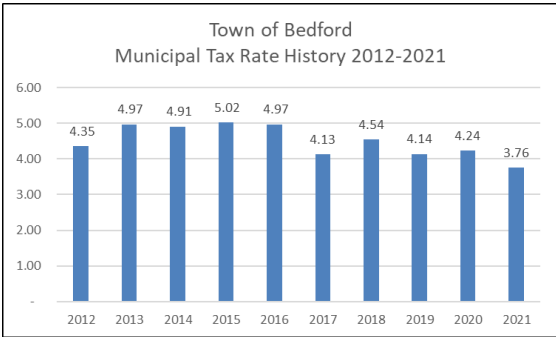


To: Bedford Town Council  
 From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
 Date: October 20, 2021  
 Re: **Manager's Report**

**News & Noteworthy:**

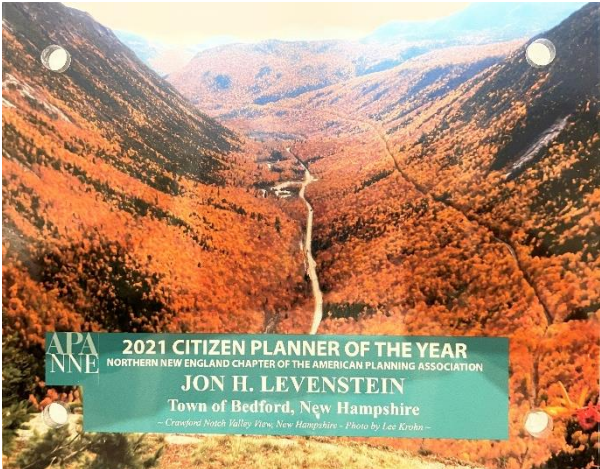
- 1) The 2021 Tax Rate has been set at \$17.14 down from \$20.02 (-\$2.88 or -14.39%). The Town portion is down to \$3.76 from \$4.24 (11.32%). Tax bills will be mailed this week with a December 1<sup>st</sup> due date.

Year	Total	Town	County	School	State Ed
2020	20.02	4.24	1.07	12.71	2.00
<b>2021</b>	<b>17.14</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>10.79</b>	<b>1.66</b>
Difference	-2.88	-0.48	-0.14	-1.92	-0.34
% Difference	-14.39%	-11.32%	-13.08%	-15.11%	-17.00%



- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic – **Bedford currently has 45 current COVID-19 positive patients** and has had a total of 2,486 cases. 54.7% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 58.5% fully vaccinated residents and 63.7% with one dose. Vaccines are extremely good at keeping someone from contracting the virus and if there is a breakthrough then it generally keeps the patient from being extremely ill. I strongly encourage anyone who can be vaccinated to do so. We will monitor the situation and put mask recommendations or mandates in place for our public buildings as warranted. Currently masks are encouraged in all buildings and required at the Safety Complex. Our organization continues to adjust as needed and assist employees who test positive, become ill, or have exposures.

- 3) Jon Levenstein, former longtime Chairman of the Planning Board has been named 2021 Citizen Planner of the Year by the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planners Association which represents New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. 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.



4) On Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup> you will now be required to use the 603 area code when completing all calls in the state. This change is being completed as a result of the use of 988 as the national three digit number to reach the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

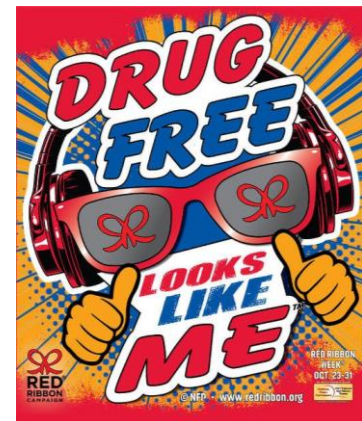


5) Trick-or-Treating is scheduled for Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6–8 PM. Participation is completely optional and we encourage those who participate to do so in a safe manner. Anyone not wishing to participate please indicate by leaving your outside house lights off during this time period.

6) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> between 10 AM and 2 PM. Residents can dispose of their prescription drugs at the Bedford Police Station, 55 Constitution Drive 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but we bring special attention to issue on the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.



7) National Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2021, “Drug Free – Looks Like Me” is the theme this year. Please join us in recognizing this week by decorating your home, mailbox or fence. Several Town buildings and grounds will be illuminated in red during the week.



8) The period for citizen petition zoning amendments runs between November 9<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested submitting a petition is encouraged contact the Planning Department for assistance.

9) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban begins on November 1<sup>st</sup>, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.

10) 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 who has been retained and who has started work. 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. If you live in the area and receive a letter from Nobis Engineering requesting to test your water please respond as soon as possible. Bottled water is being provided to those already identified as being impacted while the study is completed.

- 11) 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.
- 12) PFAS Contamination – The DPW team continues to work on a water main extension project for those residents and businesses impacted by PFAS contamination along Bedford Center Road between North Amherst Road and Primary Plaza that are outside of the Saint-Gobain and former Fire Station study areas. A preliminary cost estimate has been developed with Pennichuck Water Works and a request for grant funding through NHDES is being pursued.

**Project Updates:**

- 1) 2022 CIP & Budget – The Manager and Finance team have been working on revenue projections, fund balance standing, and tax impacts of the proposed budget. The budget will be presented to the Council on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) 2021 Roads Program – Continues with construction on Meadow Lane which is anticipated to have base paving in early November.
- 3) Master Plan – The Planning Board has scheduled a public hearing on the Master Plan for November 8, 2021 at 7 PM.
- 4) Personnel – There are currently 3 openings in the Highway Department and 1 other is out on extended leave. The Police Department has 2 patrol and 1 Captain openings. The Fire Department is fully staffed, except two members are out on extended leave. A Library clerk position is open with interviews happening this week. The Deputy Town Clerk position is vacant which can only be filled by Bedford residents. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk for more information.

**Events:**

- October 31- Trick or Treating will be on Sunday, 6-8 PM.
- November 7 – Sunday Concert & Cookies Series, “Ramblin’ Richard – Songs & Stories of WWII”, 2:30-4 PM, Bedford Library.
- November 11 – Veteran’s Day, Town Office, Library, Transfer Station closed.
- November 13 - A Walk at Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary and Historical Land Use Discussion, 1-4 PM, Joppa Hill Road. Register at [www.plcnh.org/events/](http://www.plcnh.org/events/)
- November 14 - A Walk at Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary and Historical Land Use Discussion, 1-4 PM, Joppa Hill Road. Register at [www.plcnh.org/events/](http://www.plcnh.org/events/)
- November 14 – Cinema Sunday, “West Side Story”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library.
- November 25-26 – Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Office, Library, Transfer Station closed. The Library closes at 5 PM on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- October 25 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- October 26 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- October 26 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **October 27 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- October 28 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- November 2 – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- November 8 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- ~~November 11 – 7:45 AM, Water and Sewer Committee~~
- **November 13 - 8:00 AM, Town Council Budget Workshop**
- November 16 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **November 17 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- November 18 – 9:00 AM, Poles and Wires Committee
- November 19 – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- November 22 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- November 23 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- November 23 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- November 25 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

\* \* \* \* \*