

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: October 7, 2021
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) **The Town Office Building will be closed on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 from 11:30-12:30** for a new staff get to know you session due to having so many new employees.
- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic – **Bedford currently has 34 current COVID-19 positive patients** and has had a total of 2,397 cases. 54.5% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 58.3% fully vaccinated residents and 63.6% with one dose. The Delta Variant has been labeled as being significantly more contagious than the earlier COVID-19 strains however 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) Trick-or-Treating is scheduled for Sunday, October 31st 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.
- 4) PFAS Contamination – On June 29th 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.
- 5) 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.

6) 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.

7) National Fire Prevention Week – October 3-9, 2021, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety” is the theme this year. Please take a moment to talk to your children about what a smoke or carbon monoxide detector sounds like and to discuss what to do if they go off. Also discuss how to get out of your home and designate a meeting place.



8) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, October 23rd 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.



9) 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.



10) We have not yet received our 2021 Tax Rate but we are hopeful it will be received soon so that we can issue tax bills with a December 1st due date.

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

Project Updates:

- 1) 2022 CIP & Budget – The Department Heads have completed their proposed budgets and review meetings have been held with the Manager and Finance team. Work continues on final Manager decisions, revenue projections, fund balance standing, and tax impacts of requested elements and programs. The budget will be presented to the Council on October 27th.
- 2) 2021 Roads Program – Continues with construction on Meadow Lane.

- 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 4 openings in the Highway Department and 2 others are out on medical leave with 1 pending offer. The Police Department has 2 patrol and 1 Captain openings and 2 offers for patrol are pending. The Fire Department has two pending offers for their open positions. There is 1 open position in communications and an offer is pending. A Library clerk position is open with an offer pending. 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 9th – Hawkins Field Dedication, Noon. The Men’s Club will be providing refreshments.
- October 10th – Cinema Sunday at the Library with discussion and viewing of The Shining, 1:30-4:30 PM, please register through the Library website.
- October 11th – Columbus Day, The Library will be closed to the public for staff training, all other facilities will open. The Transfer Station will be closed as typical on Mondays.
- October 16th – Clean Up Bedford Fall Event, 9 AM – 3 PM.
- October 31st - Trick or Treating will be on Sunday, 6-8 PM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~October 7 – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers~~
- October 11 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- **October 13 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- ~~October 14 – 7:45 AM, Water and Sewer Committee~~
- ~~October 14 – 9:00 AM, Poles and Wire Committee~~
- October 15 – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- October 19 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- 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

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