

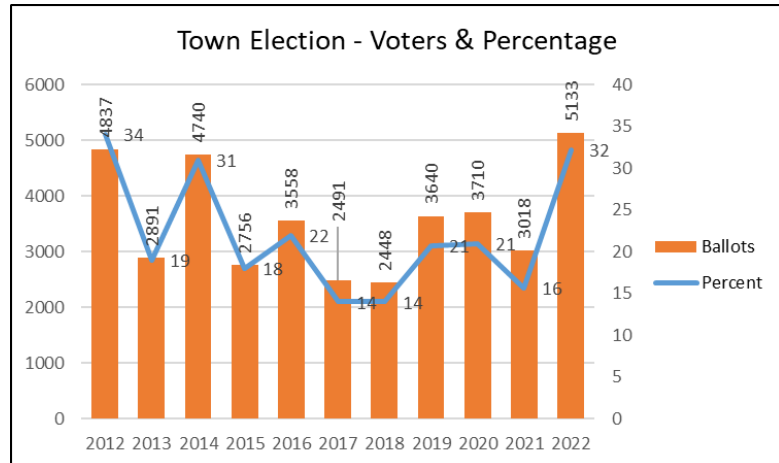
MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: March 11, 2022
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) At the most recent election we had 5,133 voters or a 32.2% turnout up from the 2021 election where we had 3,018 voters or 15.6%. I want to thank our Town Clerk, Town Moderator, Supervisors of the Checklist, Poll Workers, and DPW employees for all of their efforts in making the



election successful. The Supervisors registered 152 new voters on Election Day bringing our total to 15,953.

- 2) Bedford Cares is encouraging Bedford residents to support those escaping the war in Ukraine through a partnership with the Bedford School District who will conduct a donation drive from March 14-25 with drop off boxes located at each school. The list of items most needed:

- blankets
- air mattresses
- clean containers for water, fuel
- first aid kits
- non-perishable food items
- sleeping bags
- stand-alone candles, lamps and flashlights
- tents
- thermal underwear



The following links have been verified by Chief Bryfonski and are provided for those looking to donate money:

- Ancestors Poland Foundation: Founded in 2018, Ancestors Poland Foundation (Fundacja Polscy Przodkowie) is a nonprofit Polish organization, registered under the number KRS 0000752280.:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=HD2R46VFC6ZXG
- American School Warsaw Poland:
<https://www.aswarsaw.org/community/aswforukraine>

- 3) Recently the Town Council and Bedford Historical Society gathered (photo to the right) to celebrate the signing of a long term lease in support of the Society's efforts to open the Stevens Buswell Community Center.



- 4) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford thankfully has seen a drop in our number of cases with **12 current COVID-19 positive residents.**

Bedford has had a total of 5,108 cases.

57.8% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 62.8% fully vaccinated residents and 70.4% with one dose. There are 47 current hospitalizations and NH has experienced 2,414 COVID related deaths.

- 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.

Outside of the Saint-Gobain area of responsibility (generally north of Route 101) residents can request that their well water be tested by submitting an application through the NHDES website at: https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page_id=307

The Department of Public Works has submitted a \$1.5M grant request with NHDES in hopes of being able to extend a public watermain down Bedford Center Road to Primary Plaza to address PFAS contamination in that area.

- 6) The Town is looking for a special volunteer to be one of our representatives to the State PFAS Commission. This resident should be a member of a drinking water related environmental advocacy citizen organization which is not affiliated with any government or state agency. Even if you are not currently a member of such an organization but are interested in the appointment please contact the Town Manager at: rsawyer@bedfordnh.org
- 7) The Town is accepting applications for those interested in serving on our many boards and commissions with applications due by March 25, 2022. The application can be found at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5667/Board-Application>
- 8) The Bedford Citizen's Police Academy is back in 2022 and registration is already full.
- 9) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town Website <https://bedfordnh.myrec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities>
- 10) The Tax Collector has issued 152 tax delinquency notices which is down from 245 issued at this time last year.

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

Project Updates:

- 1) Security System Upgrades – The project remains ongoing and most door controls and cameras have been installed. Staff training and will be completed as the buildings are ready to swap over to the new systems.
- 2) Personnel – Melanie Wallace will be retiring on April 1st after 18 years of service in a couple of roles, most recently as Payroll Accounting Clerk. I thank her for her service and wish her all of the best in retirement. The Highway Superintendent position has been filled with the person starting at the end of March. There are currently 3 openings and 1 other is out on extended leave in the Highway Department. The Police and Fire Departments are fully staffed except for the positions approved at town meeting and two firefighters who are out on extended leave. 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. Applications are being accepted for Payroll Accounting Clerk, Truck Drivers, Transfer Station Attendant, and part time Summer Camp Director, Summer Camp Councilor, and Lifeguard positions.
- 3) Collective Bargaining Agreements – The Police, Fire, and DPW agreements all expire at the end of 2022 and the management team for each department is having meetings with the Town Manager, HR Director, and Town Labor Counsel to review potential management requests to be outlined and reviewed with the Town Council on April 13, 2022 in anticipation of initial meetings with the unions in the coming weeks. A hearing was held on March 11th by the Public Employee Labor Relations Board regarding the possible formation of a new Professional Fire and Police Officers union. Briefs will be provided by both sides in early April with a decision to follow soon after.

Events:

- March 13 – Cinema Sunday, "Citizen Kane", 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- March 19 - NH Big Tree Program Introduction and Winter Tree Identification Workshop, 1:30 – 3 PM, Bedford Library Lower Parking Lot. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- April 3 – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM "Cold Spring Trio – Folksy/Bluegrass" at the Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- April 10 – Cinema Sunday, "High Noon", 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- April 16 – Clean up Bedford Spring Event, 9 AM - 1 PM.
- May 29 – Memorial Day Parade, 1 PM, Bedford High School to McKelvie Intermediate School via County Road with a theme of "Freedom Through Unity".
- June 25 – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **March 14 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- ~~March 15 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board~~
- March 16 – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission
- March 22 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- March 22 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- March 24 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- March 25 – 9:00 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- March 28 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- April 5 – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- April 7 – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers
- April 11 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- April 12 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **April 13 – 6:00 PM Interviews, 7:00 PM, Town Council Meeting**
- April 14 – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- April 14 – 9:00 AM Poles & Wires Committee
- April 18 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- April 19 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- April 22 – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- April 26 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- **April 27 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- April 28 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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