

# Town of Hamilton

JANUARY-2018

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## Town calendar

- Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Town Hall closed, trash pickup delayed one day
- Jan. 20: Electronics Collection, 8 a.m.-noon, DPW yard
- Feb 1: Third quarter real estate taxes due Feb. 17: Electronics Collection, 8 a.m.-noon, DPW yard
- Feb. 19: Presidents Day, Town Hall closed, trash pickup delayed one day
- Feb. 22: Final day for town candidates to submit papers
- March 17: Electronics Collection, 8 a.m.-noon, DPW yard
- April 7: Annual Town Meeting
- April 12: Annual Town Election
- April 15: Electronics Collection, 8 a.m.-noon, DPW yard
- April 16: Patriots Day, Town Hall closed, trash pickup delayed one day
- April 25: Brush drop-off at Chebacco Road landfill, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- May 1: Fourth quarter real estate taxes due
- May 12: Curbside leaf pickup
- May 19: Electronics Collection, 8 a.m.-noon, DPW yard
- May 28: Memorial Day, Town Hall closed, trash pickup delayed one day
- May 30: Brush drop-off at Chebacco Road landfill, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

## STM Planning Board Articles Recapped

Article 3-1 - Jointly the Town Manager, Chief of Police and Board of Health supported submission of an article to Town Meeting which was intended to prohibit the sale and distribution of recreational marijuana in Hamilton. Based on the strength of the recommendations the Planning Board supported the zoning article. The town meeting vote passed by a heavy margin to adopt the prohibition.

Article 3-2 - In the fall of 2010 Hamilton Town Meeting approved a bylaw called the Willow Street Overlay Bylaw which was intended to help an area of downtown Hamilton (generally the area bounded by Willow Street on the west, Asbury St., on the north and the MBTA commuter rail right of way on the east) to generate economic development, jobs and taxes for the Town. In early to mid 2017 the Planning Board recognized that there were a

number of areas within the text of the bylaw that could be improved for clarity and better enforcement. Several modifications were proposed within the article. The amendments were well received and approved in Fall Town Meeting 2017.

Article 3-3 - In the fall of 2010 the Town of Hamilton adopted a bylaw known as the Estate Overlay District. The legislation was created to allow for the preservation of the buildings and land within Hamilton's large estate properties while allowing for an appropriate level of development in order to allow the properties a better ability to sustain themselves rather than be converted into common subdivisions. As the bylaw has not been employed in a single instance since its adoption the Planning Board felt it appropriate to modify the language to make it more likely to succeed in its mission - to see the large estates become economi-

cally viable through appropriate redevelopment with residential and commercial usage rather than deteriorate and be lost from the fabric of the community forever. Town Meeting chose to defeat the article.

Article 3-4 - After many years of discussion regarding cottage housing in Hamilton the Planning Board prepared and brought forward an article proposing to allow this type of housing in Town, specifically within R-1A and R-1B zones. The bylaw as proposed by the Board would allow up to 4.5 units per acre and a project could be attained only through a special permit process by the Planning Board. In spite of supposedly a great deal of support for this type of housing in surveys and public discussions, the article failed with Town Meeting voters citing a broad range of concerns over the density and growth.



## Water Conservation Urged All Year Long

The Hamilton Department of Public Works urges all Hamilton residents to conserve water whenever possible, year-round and even if a water ban isn't in place.

There continues to be filtration issues at the Hamilton water treatment plant at times of high demand, according to Hamilton DPW Director Tim

Olson. At times, some water users experience discolored water due to the water plant trying to meet higher demands and the efficiency decreasing in the plant filter media, Olson said. That led to the implementation of voluntary water restrictions to help conserve water in early summer 2017 and, later, man-

datory water restrictions.

In addition to the encouragement of year-round conservation efforts, mechanical lawn watering is not allowed between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. from May through Sept. 30, as is the case every year, according to the Hamilton Outdoor Water Use By-Law.



## Recycling Reminder

Please make sure your bottles, cans, and containers are clean before placing them in your recycle bin. You do not need to remove labels and are asked not to flatten or crush cans or milk cartons.

Recycling should not be put into plastic bags. The bags will jam the machines at Casella's recycling facility. Bags sold as recyclable are NOT permitted at this time.

The Hamilton Recycling Committee is in the process of updating recycling and composting information and will be distributing it through a variety of channels in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued effort.



## Proposed New Bylaw on Vacant, Unsafe, & Dilapidated Buildings

On **Thursday, January 25th**, at Town Hall, the Hamilton Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on a proposed new bylaw entitled the "VACANT, UNSAFE, & DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS BYLAW".

Presently, the Town has no means or legal authority to address problems posed by buildings or property that are vacant or unsafe or dilapidated. This bylaw was prompted by the complaints of many residents and abutters to such properties who were frustrated by their inability to correct these problems.

The basic purpose of this Bylaw is to prevent any unreasonable interference with the common interest of the general public in maintaining decent, safe, and sanitary structures and in not adversely affecting property values.

The Board of Health is planning to have this proposed bylaw on the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting in April. We are looking for your input and comments on it. **Please attend.**

## Adopt a Hydrant After Snowstorms



After snowstorms, Hamilton residents are encouraged to adopt a fire hydrant in their neighborhood, said Hamilton Fire Chief Phil Stevens.

After the "bomb cyclone" in early January, Stevens encouraged residents to clear the fire hydrants near their

home so they are ready to use in case of a fire. Ideally, a hydrant is clear three feet around it plus clear and visible from the street. In the event of a fire, firefighters can lose valuable seconds and minutes trying to find buried hydrants.

Another snowstorm-related reminder – if you only use a garage or side entrance, it is a good idea to clear a path from all entries and exits of your home. It can help if you need to evacuate in an emergency

## Stuff-a-Cruiser Toy Drive Fills Cruiser Many Times

The Hamilton Police Department stuffed a cruiser several times over at its Stuff-a Cruiser Toy Drive this holiday season.

Many generous toy donations were received for children at Shriner's Hospital. The Shriner's had their bus in Hamilton to take away all the toys. Hamilton police had to empty the cruiser more than a few times to make room for all the donations.

Everyone who participated got hot chocolate and candy canes and there was also a visit from Santa Claus.



## Find Parking Ban Info Online or Via 'Reverse 911' Call

A snow emergency winter parking ban in usually put into place in Hamilton when four inches or more of snow is predicted. The parking ban usually comes with a minimum of four hours notice before enforcement begins.

This reminder comes as the heart of winter is here.

During a parking ban, no parking is allowed at any time on any streets except by fire, police, public works or other public safety vehicles and public utility repair vehicles. Also, no vehicles are allowed to park in a way that will interfere with snow removal or sanding operations.

Any vehicle in violation of the parking ban can receive a \$20 ticket and may be towed at the owner's expense.

There are several ways to find out if a parking ban is in effect, including by checking HWCAM, the town website at [hamiltonma.gov](http://hamiltonma.gov) or via a "Reverse 911" phone call.



## Stickers Now Available for Bulky Trash Items

A new sticker program is in effect in Hamilton for pickup of bulky trash items.

The program started in mid-December. Each sticker is \$15 and is limited to one item per week. The stickers can be purchased in the DPW offices on the second floor of Hamilton Town Hall (checks only), Crosby's Market in the Shoppes at Hamilton Crossing and at Cumberland Farms.

The sticker needs to be affixed to the item, which should be put out with the trash on the regular collection day.

Some of the items covered by the program include non-metal household furniture, rolls of carpet, mattresses and large children's toys. The program does not cover white goods, construction debris or yard waste



## Solar Development in Hamilton

Throughout the planning stage of the municipal landfill capping project, the Town of Hamilton has envisioned development of a solar PV array on the property. The Town applied for and was awarded a Municipal Technical Assistance (META) grant through the MA Department of Environmental Resources (DOER) to retain Cadmus Group as an Owner's Agent for development of a PV array on the capped landfill in July, 2015. The Town Manager, Energy Manager, and Cadmus group prepared and issued a Request for Qualifications to

solar developers in July 2016 and received responses in August 2016. The cap on Hamilton's Municipal Landfill on Chebacco Road reached substantial completion in September 2016 and by October 2016 the Town had selected Ameresco as a solar development partner. A Notice of Intent was executed between the two entities in December 2016 and Ameresco immediately got to work developing the project and preparing an interconnection application to National Grid.

Throughout project development, the

solar landscape in MA had been changing. The net metering cap in National Grid territory was met a number of times and the legislature responded by raising the cap. DOER had for years been talking about a shift away from net metering incentives and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) and towards a fixed incentive. The draft regulations for this new incentive program, known as the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program were issued in early 2017 just as Hamilton's landfill project was going to 30% design.

Ameresco presented a draft contract in May 2017 showing the project economics under both the SREC scenario and the SMART scenario. Because the net metering caps are currently met, it is unlikely that Hamilton's project will get in under the SREC scenario. Contract negotiations have been ongoing between the Town, Cadmus, and Ameresco and we are hopeful to execute a contract by January 2018. This will poise Ameresco to order materials shortly thereafter and begin construction in May 2018. Construction completion and commercial operation would then be sometime in July 2018.

## Are You New to Hamilton?

Businesses who want to reach new Town residents can request a spot on the Town of Hamilton website.

The town's new website includes a section to help acquaint new residents with the town.

Some of the local businesses and organizations that are already listed include Green Meadows Farm, Myopia Polo Club, Seven Acre Stables, the Hamilton-Wenham Community House and Acord Food Pantry.

If you want to list your organization or business in this section, email Anabela Batista at [abatista@hamiltonma.gov](mailto:abatista@hamiltonma.gov).





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Don Preston from Habitat  
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Selectman Shawn Farrell



Jane Wetson, Linda Grimes and Mimmi Fanning



Emily O'Brien-Holland from Dare Family  
Services picking up toys at Town Hall



Town Manager, Michael Lombardo with Jennifer  
Morgan from Institution for Savings



Pumpkin Fest

