

## Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., Dec. 16, 2019

- The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District will meet jointly with the Hamilton Board of Selectmen on Wednesday night in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Buker School to choose a new School Committee member from Hamilton. This new member will serve through April, the remainder of the term. To date, three residents have submitted letters of interest in the seat.
- Last week, the Board of Directors of the Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA) formally accepted the town's request to join CATA so that we can begin utilizing the agency to help meet the transportation needs of our seniors. When the Board of Selectmen voted to seek to join CATA in November, the motion noted that that the Town Manager would represent in meeting with CATA. I will begin working with the Council on Aging Director, a member of the Board of Selectmen, a representative of the Housing Authority and CATA, to design the service plan for Hamilton. There was a great deal of excitement among the CATA Board to have Hamilton join.
- Ad Hoc "Umbrella Committee" is planning to meet beginning in January. The idea for this committee was first raised by Finance and Advisory Committee Chairman David Wanger as a way of opening up the lines of communication between the boards and committees so that each could know what the other is working on. This committee is comprised of representatives from some of the town's committees and boards. The "Umbrella" Committee would have no statutory authority, but would instead seek to create dialogue and understanding between boards and committees about the different aspects of their work and how they relate to one another. We are hopeful that a first meeting would include the chairs and/or one representative each from the Board of Selectmen, Finance and Advisory Committee, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Trust, Conservation Commission, Hamilton Development Corporation, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Capital Committee and that they will continue to meet informally on a quarterly basis.
- MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator Sharon Kishida, who works with Hamilton and 38 other Northeastern Massachusetts communities on waste reduction and recycling has offered to come to Hamilton to either meet with the Board of Selectmen or as part of a community forum on the state's expectations for waste reduction, prior to the start of Hamilton's return to Every Other Week solid waste collection. She noted she is not available to meet on Jan. 8, 9, 14 or 15, but is otherwise available for an evening meeting in the beginning part of January.
- Superintendent Julie Kukenberger shared with us last week that the Regional School District has been informed by the Massachusetts School Building Authority that its Statement of Interest (SOI) has not been chosen to move forward in the MSBA process at this time, but the District was provided with information it can use to re-apply for the next cycle.
- On Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, I was able to host the regular meeting of the North Shore Coalition of Mayors and Town Managers/Administrators here in the Memorial Room. The North Shore Coalition meets about four to six times per year and is an opportunity for cities and town on the North Shore to collaborate on programs, policies and projects that impact all of the communities in our region. Currently, one of the larger initiatives of the Coalition is to advocate for regional solutions to our transportation issues here on the

North Shore and to jointly seek the support of the state legislature in solving the transportation connection issues in our region.

- Finally, the town has been participating with a group of other communities on regional solutions to our IT needs and future IT infrastructure and services. Supported by a state grant, the group heard about the feasibility of starting to regionalize aspects of IT delivery in our towns and we will be working toward that goal in an effort to develop a more sustainable model going forward.
  
- Update on Town Manager Goals:
  - Self-Sufficiency of the Patton Homestead – The Patton Homestead is beginning a Third Thursday luncheon speaker series. Details of each month’s featured speaker will be posted on-line and people can sign up to attend in advance.
  - Chebacco Road/Well Exploration and Manchester – Our consultant continues to work on the design and permitting aspects of the project.
  - Master Planning/ Housing Master Plan updates – The Housing portion of the Master Plan is now complete, and we began assessing the costs associated with transitioning to a full master Plan for the town. I expect to have proposals ready to be discussed as part of the budget process, as I’d like to fund it in the FY’21 budget.
  - Town Hall Renovations – The Town Hall Building Committee and Hamilton Historic District Commission met jointly last week and have both voted unanimously to approve a design – referred to as Option B with HHDC comments – to advance in the design and permitting phase. The latest design iteration meets all of the concerns of the HHDC, pays respect to the building, makes the building code compliant and, maintains Town Meeting’s desire of an elevator addition as the only new construction in the project.