

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., Aug. 12, 2019

It has been a while since we provided this Town Manager Report to the community, I apologize for the delay.

- Hamilton Highway Foreman Peter Cobb was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works and has started in that role effective today. Pete's extensive knowledge of Hamilton's day to day operations, the respect he has earned from the men and women in the department, and his work ethic makes him the perfect choice to serve in this role. Pete will work with Director Tim Olson to identify his replacement as Highway Foreman and will be involved with overseeing the day to day operations of the entire department going forward, while he also learns the administrative part of the position. We are very happy to have Pete stepping up to this new role.
- Thanks to Representative Brad Hill, who made a connection for me to Cape Ann Transit Authority (CATA) Executive Director Felicia Webb, I was able to have a very positive meeting with CATA about possibly complementing our current senior transportation service. I will be discussing possible next steps with the Board of Selectmen later in the meeting.
- I hope most residents have had a chance to watch the Board of Selectmen's special meeting on Hamilton's water supply, which was held on July 29 and has been airing on HWCam since. If you have not had a chance to see the meeting yet, I hope you will take some time to look for it on the HWCam website. The meeting was very informative and the town's staff and consultants were able to provide a lot of very good information about our current water system, our water supply and both the challenges and opportunities that exist for us going forward.
- Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Michael Kennealy visited the Patton Homestead, along with State Rep. Brad Hill and State Senator Bruce Tarr, who were both there to show the Secretary around and urge him to help the town secure state funding of improvements to the Homestead. I know our chairman, Jeff Hubbard was there, along with Patton Homestead Director Kaleigh Pare and representatives from our partner organizations, the Wenham Museum, the Hamilton Historical Society and Patton Homestead Inc.
- Parks and Recreation Department's summer camp program is having another very successful year. I want to thank Parks and Recreation Director Sean Timmons and his staff of 36 young counselors for their hard work and the environment they have created for the kids at the camp. My youngest son is among the roughly 180 young campers per week who has been at the camp most of this summer, and he has had a great time. They do a great job.
- Update on Town Manager Goals:
 - Self-Sufficiency of the Patton Homestead – Kaleigh Pare and I will be meeting with a representative of FinCom to provide an update on our progress with Patton Homestead self-sufficiency and discuss what changes we may be making. We've also had some recent discussions about a new partnership that could improve our marketing of the Homestead; I will be providing a fuller update on the Homestead in the coming weeks.
 - Chebacco Road/Well Exploration and Manchester – DPW Director Tim Olson and I met with the team from Woodard and Curran, the town's new engineers on

the Chebacco Road paving project and they will be scheduling a first public meeting to discuss the paving with the public and residents of the area for early-September. On the water side of the discussion, I met with Manchester by the Sea Town Administrator Greg Federspiel last week. He has confirmed the town would be interested in pursuing a partnership on providing water from the Gravelly Pond source to Hamilton, but it is not likely able to provide for all of the town's needs on its own. There is more work to do, but for now, Greg has agreed to provide access to Manchester's water department and water consultants to further those discussions. We will also be looking at possible other locations in Hamilton to try and draw water from the North Costal basin.

- Master Planning/ Housing Master Plan updates – The town's Housing Master Plan, undertaken as a next step by the Planning Board, is nearly complete and the Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust has also engaged the same consultants to complete an update to the town's Housing Production Plan, which was overdue. We are also awaiting approval on our Hazard Mitigation Plan update and new Open Space and Recreation Plan, which is being completed by the Open Space Committee and MAPC. During the budget process, I will be working to identify a way for the town to complete the other components required of a Master Plan, so that we can assimilate these various pieces into one unified vision for the town. The first step in that will be a public Idea Exchange, which I am hoping to plan for late September. More information and a date and location will be forthcoming on that.
- Town Hall Renovations – An update on the status of the Town Hall project will be discussed during the Selectmen's meeting on Monday night, as the Board considers warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting on October 19, 2019.