

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Tue., September 29, 2020

Public Health and Senior Center – The Council on Aging is working with the Director of Public Health Nurses and the Hamilton Fire Department on a Senior Flu Clinic, which has been scheduled for October 27, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hamilton Public Safety Building. This drive-thru flu clinic will run similarly to the recent flu clinic for teachers and staff, which was held in the beginning of September, but is specifically for residents age 65 and older, who need the high-dose flu vaccine. Pre-registration will be required.

More details on how to register will be shared with the community through the Council on Aging and Town websites and social media platforms as the date gets closer.

Halloween guidance – The Town of Hamilton Recreation Department will be working with the Board of Health and public safety departments to share state health guidelines for celebrating Halloween safely this year.

The State Department of Public Health has released guidance on what to expect this year, which may be updated as Halloween draws closer depending on the rate of infections around the state. At this point, the town and state are preparing to provide protocols and guidance for those who would like to participate in Halloween festivities in a safe way, bearing in mind the state's continued orders on crowd sizes and social distancing.

Please watch the Hamilton Recreation Department and Town websites and social media platforms for updates so that we can all safely celebrate Halloween in the ways that make us most comfortable.

Fall Recreation programs – Recreation Director Sean Timmons reports great activity with the fall programs, as residents have signed up to participate in about 20 different socially distance activities.

The Fall Flag Football program began play this weekend and there were no reports of overcrowding or violations of social distancing guidelines during the games this weekend. All participants seemed to enjoy being back on the field for some fun, physical activity.

DPW – Director Tim Olson and Asst. Director Pete Cobb are busy identifying snow removal contractors to supplement our snow removal efforts this winter. They have identified several qualified drivers who seem interested in the position and will be attempting to get them under contract as soon as possible. We cannot anticipate a winter as mild as last year's.

Downtown Parking study – The town has signed a contract with Nelson Nygaard to complete a resident informed parking study of the downtown area, focused on the area of Willow Street and Bay Road, from Linden to Asbury streets. The parking study will be coordinated through the

Planning and Inspections Department and we will be announcing the study kickoff meeting shortly.

Residents, particularly those in the downtown area, are encouraged to get involved in the study and offer your thoughts and perspectives so the plan can be responsive to the needs of the neighborhood.

This study is being jointly sponsored by the Hamilton Development Corporation and the Hamilton Public Works Department.

Cell Tower Update – The attorneys for EIP Communications (Everest) have circulated the final copy of an MOA between the company and Hamilton Historic District Commission (HHDC). EIP is now awaiting a signature from the State Historic Preservation Officer as required by the FCC. Once this step has been completed, we anticipate FCC acceptance of the MOA and for Everest to apply for its building permit.

Activity at Patton Homestead – This past Sunday marked the second annual Kite Festival at Patton Homestead, although this year's event happened in a pandemic environment. Approximately fifty people visited the Homestead in two separate sessions to fly kites and the weather was perfect for the activity.

Also, students from the North Shore Essex Technical School have begun work to upgrade the electricity in the stables, which should make the space easier to use and lease out for functions. The initial schedule will have students working under teacher supervision up to three days per week until the weather gets colder, at which point the schedule will be adjusted. We'll continue to provide updates on their progress.