

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen

Monday, October 22, 2018

- Residents have started receiving information about the Community Choice Aggregation program in the mail and there has been some confusion. We'd like to remind residents that the Town Meeting and Board of Selectmen have approved the Community Choice Aggregation program and earlier this month, the town did receive a very good bid for electricity supply cost, beginning November 1. The cost of the basic program, for electricity supply is \$11.4 center per kWh, however, any resident who wishes to opt out of the program can do so and they will automatically be put back into the National Grid pricing structure. For more information residents can go to www.hamiltoncca.com or call 866-226-3953 and leave a message and you will get a call back.
- Town, through the efforts of Vicki Masone, has received a \$12,500 grant for technical assistance to help study solar feasibility on municipal buildings. The buildings to be studied include The Hamilton-Wenham Library, Recreation Center, COA building, Public Safety building and Water Treatment plant. Vicki has been authorized by me to work through the MAPC solar technical procurement to contract with a consultant to do the work. We hope to have the results of the work in time to possibly apply for new Green Communities grant funds to take on a project or projects.
- Public Works Director Tim Olson has asked the Board to take up the issue of removing the water ban. We will place this on your next agenda for a vote.
- With the approval of funds for a Director to manage the Paton Homestead and start developing a business plan and rental schedule, we will be advertising this week for the position with a new job description.
- Speaking of openings in town government, we are currently advertising for two positions in our finance department, one in the Treasurer-Collectors office and a Benefits Coordinator-Junior Accountant position in the finance office.
- We have gratefully accepted the services of Caroline Johnson, on a temporary fulltime basis, to assist in the Treasurer-Collectors office. Caroline has previously worked in both Manchester and Wenham in the collectors offices in those towns and is well versed on the type of work they do. With the open position and an impending medical leave in that office, Caroline will help us maintain the functionality in that office for the next several weeks. Please stop by and welcome Caroline to Town Hall.
- Speaking of medical leaves, we currently have two employees out on medical leave and two others who will be going out at the end of this month. As I said last month, we have small departments, and when people are out, things can take a bit longer, so I ask folks to have a little patience when they come to Town Hall to conduct business and understand our people are doing their best.
- The Town Hall Study Committee received nine proposals for designer services and will be reviewing the responses for an Oct. 25 meeting. The selection will be a qualifications based process with a not to exceed contract, based on the funding that was appropriated through Town Meeting.
- Also, Town representatives will be meeting at the State House at the beginning of November to review the town's unsuccessful grant application to the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund. We hope that the meeting will help us draft a more successful application this year.