

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen – Mon., Aug. 26, 2019

- Early Childhood Partners' Nature Scavenger Hunt at Patton Homestead on Wed., Sep. 18 from 10-11 a.m. A free story time event for children ages 0 to 5 years old and their parents/caregivers. It is a rain or shine event, interested parents/caregivers can learn more at www.EarlyChildhoodPartners.com
- Hamilton Health Agent Leslie Whelan and the Board of Health are advising residents to avoid swimming or allowing pets to swim in Round Pond as a result of the presence of Blue Algae in the pond. Swimming in water with blue algae is unsafe for humans and pets.
- Health Agent Whelan has also notified the town of recent positive test results for the presence of EEE in mosquitoes in Boxford and Andover. The Board of Health advises residents to take precautions against mosquitoes, particularly during times of high mosquito activity, such as in the evening and late afternoons. For additional information, please access the 'tips for avoiding mosquitoes' posted on the town's website.
- FlashVote Community surveys are coming to Hamilton this fall. In a continuing effort to engage the public, seek input and ensure that we are communicating properly with our residents. Over the next two weeks or so we will be asking residents to engage the FlashVote website and volunteer to take part in a series of short surveys about issues that impact the town. The goal by mid-September is to build a virtual panel of at least 200 residents, who are willing to take a one minute survey about four to six times per year to answer questions on a specific topic. The FlashVote system is more accurate than random polling, as it reduces the opportunity for survey respondents to self-select based on the survey topic. It is intended to more closely resemble a cross-section of the community, making the survey results more scientific. FlashVote surveys is also an instructive way of identifying just how much information about issues is being received by the public so that we can focus our communication and outreach efforts in ways that better informs the public about issues facing the community.
- Closure of Waldingfield Road by MassDOT for bridge repairs in Ipswich effective tonight and lasting until November 20, Waldingfield Road from Ipswich into Hamilton will be closed. Folks living in that area or who frequently use Waldingfield Rd. should know that the closure of the road will force detours and likely result in higher traffic volumes on other streets until the repairs are complete. More information is available on the Town of Hamilton website.
- The Ameresco Solar field on Chebacco Road is nearing completion. We will provide some photographs through the town website for people to see the progress. The next phase of the project, once the entire solar array and surrounding fencing are completed is to have National Grid make the interconnection so that the solar field can start to produce electricity.
- Update on Town Manager Goals:
 - Self-Sufficiency of the Patton Homestead – Kaleigh Pare met with Nick Tensen of the FinCom last week to update the committee on the implantation of the business plan, our successes and challenges remaining. The Homestead also scheduled an event with National Grid for Sep. 16, 2019.
 - Chebacco Road/Well Exploration and Manchester – We are anticipating have a public meeting to discuss the Chebacco Road paving project in mid-September,

the date will be publicized, as soon as it is confirmed. On the issue of well exploration, I will be discussing a potential option with the Board of Selectmen in Executive Session, as it is related to a possible future acquisition of land (real estate) and public discussion of the possibility may hurt the town position.

- Master Planning/ Housing Master Plan updates – Nothing new to report on this topic at this time.
- Town Hall Renovations – The THBC is meeting on Thursday morning, to go over what energy efficiency measures that are being discussed/ examined for inclusion in the Town hall project. Additionally, the architects continue to work on the design for Option A, which was supported by vote of the Board of Selectmen and the THBC. As we prepare for Special Town Meeting, we have asked the architects to simultaneously compile information about Option B as well in order to provide as much information as possible to Special Town Meeting about the two options and the differences between them.