

Town of Hamilton

Town Manager's Office

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen Tuesday, July 6, 2021

I am pleased to be able to offer the following report on programs and initiatives that are on-going in the Town of Hamilton, as well as some updates on a variety of things that have happened since our last report.



Senior “cookout” – The Council on Aging Board volunteered to host a “Cookout” for seniors at the Council on Aging Building on Wednesday, June 30 as a celebration of the end of COVID-19 restrictions and a “welcome back” to seniors who had been absent from the Council on Aging for the past 15-18 months.

Approximately 50 seniors participated in the event, which was catered from the Salem Gnu kitchen and offered seniors a choice of hamburgers and chicken along with sides and cold soft drinks.

The Council on Aging board has been filling in with volunteer help since April, so that drop-in hours at the Council on Aging could be offered to allow local seniors an opportunity to socialize and renew friendships. The Town of Hamilton is currently looking for a part-time COA Outreach and Program coordinator to help manage that aspect of social life at the Senior Center going forward.

Interested applicants can find the job posting on the town website.



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Union contracts settled – Just prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 30, the town completed successful negotiations on new three year contract with our Public Works and Emergency Dispatchers unions.

I want to thank the negotiating teams and the employees of both unions for working in an open, collaborative manner with management to close the negotiations prior to the start of the fiscal year and with an eye toward the town's financial planning.

Both unions were fair and reasonable in their requests and in what was ultimately negotiated. The tenor of the discussions and the collaborative approach was focused on rewarding and incentivizing good work among a collection of fine employees. We worked to provide fair and reasonable compensation, understanding the town's fiscal constraints.

Retirements/Moving on – With the end of the fiscal year on June 30, the town said goodbye to a few employees last week.

Longtime DPW mechanic Rick Campana retired last Wednesday, after 38 years of service to the town. Rick was responsible for keeping Hamilton's fleet of vehicles on the road and operating safely for a very long time and he will be missed, as much for his professionalism and hard work as for his kind and patient demeanor. He was a great asset to the community for many years. Rick worked with the town to help us identify and bring on a new mechanic before he retired. Council on Aging Director Mary Beth Lawton officially retired on June 30 as well. Mary Beth worked for the town for six years and the town is currently reviewing our needs to determine the best way to fill that role going forward.

Health Agent Leslie Whelan has also left the town. The new fiscal year budget established a new position of part-time Health Director, which we are in the process of filling. We appreciate the more than ten years of service that Leslie had given to the town and thank her for her work to help the town and the Board of Health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Assessors John Speidel also has moved on to become the Chief Assessor in Billerica, though he was only here for a brief time, we wish him well. The Director of Assessors position is also posted on the town website.



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Patton Homestead – Coming off a June that saw an outdoor dance recital and a wildly successful Pride Picnic, that brought over 400 visitors to the Patton Homestead, July is shaping up to be even busier, as the property prepares to host events every weekend of the month. Our first paid wedding will take place at the Patton Homestead on this coming Saturday, July 10. On July 17, Military History Day, sponsored by the American Legion, will return to the Homestead, after being cancelled last year due to the pandemic. On July 24 we will host a West Point Picnic for West Point alumni and on July 31 will be the Claflin Family Reunion. There are other events also planned or on the calendar for August and September as well.

Master Plan – The Master Plan Steering Committee and the planning consultant Weston and Sampson will meet jointly on Thursday, July 8 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Memorial Room at Town Hall, and will also use zoom to allow the public to attend virtually.

Sundays in Patton Park – The Sundays in Patton Park music program offered in partnership with the Community House begins again this weekend, July 11 and currently is expected to run through Sunday, August 22. The concerts begin at 5 p.m. and are done with the support of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Institution for Savings among others.



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