

Town of Hamilton

Town Manager's Office

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen Monday, August 2, 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.

In-person meeting and mask guidance – Due to the emerging threat posed by the Delta variant of COVID-19, the rapid increase in numbers of cases and the continued resistance of some people to be vaccinated, the Hamilton Board of Health has voted to offer new guidance for public bodies meeting in public in-person.

Chief among the recommendations made by the Board of Health are to, 1) limit the number of people meeting in person in the Memorial Room at Town Hall; 2) require face masks for all people who do attend the meeting in-person; 3) ensure that zoom or other technology is available to allow the public to “attend the meeting” without having to be present; and 4) restrict in-person attendance at such meetings to members of the board or committee, town staff and anyone making application to the board or committee.

This guidance is related to in-person public meetings to be held in the Memorial Room only, due to the size of the room, lack of ventilation and other factors. The complete guidance form the Board of Health is available on the town website.

Planning Board 133 Essex hearings – Due to the updated guidance from the Board of Health about public meetings in the Memorial Room, and the high interest in the proposed development of 133 Essex Ave., the Planning Board has decided to hold all of its meetings related to the 133 Essex proposal as “virtual” meetings via zoom, beginning with tomorrow evening’s (August 3) initial hearing date with the developers at 7 p.m.

Members of the public that arrive at Town Hall to participate in this meeting **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN**. The public and the proponents will be joining the meeting entirely via zoom. For zoom information please see the calendar on the town website.

Updated face covering guidance form DPH and DESE – From the Massachusetts Department of Public Health the following guidance has been released with regard to face coverings in public:

Effective July 30: The Department of Public Health has issued a new mask advisory in light of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s updated guidance. Fully vaccinated individuals are advised to wear a mask or face covering when indoors outside of your home if you have a weakened immune system, are at increased risk for COVID-19 or if someone in your household is at increased risk or unvaccinated. Masks are still mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregated care settings.



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Mask Advisory for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Residents

The Department of Public Health issued a public health advisory effective July 30 that advises all unvaccinated residents to continue to wear masks in indoor settings and when they can't socially distance. The advisory also recommends that vaccinated residents who are at increased risk from COVID-19, or who live with someone at increased risk, should wear a face covering indoors (other than in their home).

This information will be updated on the webpage <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements>

Similarly, please find attached guidance regarding face covering recommendations for Schools – Fall 2021. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0730fall-2021-covid19-guidance.pdf>

Help Wanted – You may have read recently in the news about the difficulty that companies and other employers are having in finding staff. The Town of Hamilton is no different. Currently, the town has several part-time and full-time openings we are seeking to fill and have had an unfortunate shortage of applicants.

As of July 19, 2021, we are currently accepting applications for:

- Part-Time Health Director
- Part-Time Administrative Assistant to the Health Department
- Part-Time Regional Public Health Social Worker
- Part-Time Social Services and Program Coordinator for Council on Aging
- Part-Time Site Coordinator for the Patton Homestead
- Full-Time Assistant to the Town Manager/ Community Preservation Coordinator
- Full-Time Director of Assessors
- Full-Time Regional Public Health Nurse

The position descriptions for these jobs are currently available on the town website, on the Human Resources page under the category Career Opportunities.



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