

Town of Hamilton

Town Manager's Office

Town Manager Report to the Board of Selectmen Monday, November 15, 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.

Chebacco Road update – The Chebacco Road paving project took a step backward this weekend, when the Manchester Special Town Meeting failed to provide us with the 2/3 vote needed to secure the easement for the proposed new Chebacco Road layout.

Public Works Director Tim Olson and I will be meeting shortly with Town Counsel to review our options, we have several, so that we can propose a way to resolve the current situation.

Master Plan Steering Committee Workshop and email address – The Master Plan Steering Committee Visioning Workshop this past Saturday at Miles River Middle School drew a healthy crowd of approximately 50 residents and elicited some very good input from those residents. In addition, the committee launched a new email address at: MasterPlan@Hamiltonma.gov in order to gather additional input from residents and other community members, as part of their efforts to assist our Plan Consultants in collection of information, ideas and data from the community itself.

Residents are encouraged to use the new email address to share their ideas, thoughts, and impressions with the Master Plan Steering Committee and the consultants.

Council on Aging Director – Human Resources Director MichelleLee Maloney is working with a screening committee to review resumes and conduct initial interviews with the applicants for the Council on Aging Director position at the Hamilton Senior Center. The application period for the COA Director closed last Friday, Nov, 5. The goal is to have finalists presented for final interviews prior to Thanksgiving with the intent to be able to make an offer for a new COA Director after that.

Council on Aging community needs assessment – This is a reminder for Hamilton residents 60 and older that the COA is working with the UMass Boston Gerontology Institute on a needs assessment for our seniors. A survey is available on the town's website and most seniors should have received a postcard at their homes, informing them of the survey.

We ask residents to take some time complete the survey, so that we have the most information possible.

The report that will be issued by UMass Boston will be used to help make decisions about how best to provide programs and services to our seniors in the Town of Hamilton. The results of the survey will also be shared with the Master Plan Steering Committee and the Health Department, to assist those efforts in providing services and programs to our senior population.

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The survey can also be found at:

https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fumassboston.co1.qualtrics.com%2Ffife%2Fform%2FSV_3JYBG2GHlxNfsmq&data=04%7C01%7CCaitlin.Coyle%40umb.edu%7C858defb387c24ebc50b108d99e259fd4%7Cb97188711ee94425953c1ace1373eb38%7C0%7C0%7C637714706691031515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=J74q343rQ3b1q34FQThgSD0TJ%2F1ob7z1WsCodusDoW8%3D&reserved=0

Public Health Director, new offices and survey – The town has hired Dennis Palazzo as our new Health Director. He began last week on November 8.

Dennis will be working with our other Health department staff, the Hamilton Board of Health, as well as our partners in the Regional Public Health Excellence grant award (Wenham, Essex and Rockport) on a variety of regional public health efforts.

In the meantime, work has begun in the second floor space at the Council on Aging building, as we prepare to move our health department staff to that building and out of their currently inadequate, inefficient space.

We are hopeful that by locating our health staff in the same building as our seniors, we'll be able to provide better access to public health programs that may be needed by our local senior residents.