**Town Manager Update**

*June 21, 2021*

Over the last two weeks we’ve seen a subtle but real change in Town offices, as employees and the public are no longer required to wear facial coverings. Coverings for those who are not vaccinated are strongly encouraged, but there is no general requirement to wear a mask. This is a very welcome relief to many, though I will mention that there are those who are still not vaccinated, for their own reasons, so please do not be surprised to see masks still being worn.

As you saw from previous agenda items, I’ve been busy interviewing candidates for Town Planner and Administrative Assistant, and am pleased with the results. I hope to start interviewing for Highway Superintendent next week, with an eye toward an appointment for your ratification July 12. The Foreman is ready to take the position of Interim Highway Superintendent, and I will have that ready for you July 12 as well.

I spoke with the Principal Assessor about River Street. In 1960, the Town declined to accept it as a public road. In 1983, the property was sold to River Run Associates, with the deed referring to a 1952 plan showing the road very clearly as a private way.

The Highway Superintendent reports that the sewer line between the Town main at the end of Depot Road and the old Depot restaurant has been checked by a consultant with a camera for possible breaks and we have a verbal report that the line is free of any obstructions. It was evident that there had been a break and that it had been repaired. We are waiting for a written confirmation of this survey.

I’ve been working with the Building Superintendent on refining his, and my, understanding of the processes required for project bidding and tracking under state procurement requirements, using the installation of the new security cameras as a case study.

I met with Glenn Lagerwall regarding the North Mountain Project, and we ended agreeing that it would help a great deal to create a new Open Space Committee to help sort through Town priorities regarding Town parks and trails.

I was pleased to meet the members of the DRA/DDIC on a Zoom call and look forward to getting them some assistance from the new Town Planner.

The new rules for the Coronavirus Local Financial Relief Fund are out, and one provision in particular is very welcome, a revenue replacement program that assumes that without the pandemic, local revenues would have risen at an annual rate of 4.1% from fiscal year 2019. The difference between our real revenue and that 4.1% rise is available in two tranches for any general expense. For Dalton, this could mean more than half a million dollars. The Town Accountant and I are looking at the details, but so far, the program seems very worth applying for.