**TM Update**

*January 24, 2022*

**Committees and Boards**

I’m moving toward hiring our old Recycling educator, Mary Stucklen, on a very part-time basis to continue her work around recycling and the transfer station to the end of the year. This should make the transition to town operation easier and will cover some items Jayne has been working on so that our new Health Agent can focus on other issues.

The Beautification Commission has received artwork proposed for the traffic control box in front of Town Hall, showing three cavorting foxes with party balloons—very festive and colorful while using nature as the main image.

The Planning Board committee on Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADUs, has presented a draft by-law to the Planning Board and will be looking for resident input, especially at a public hearing, but also through less formal channels. We will have the draft on the Town website for review and comment soon.

**Departments**

We continue to have a small number of COVID cases among Town employees. Thankfully, we have so far been able to work around the absences, and no one has been seriously ill.

I’ve been working closely with the Town Planner on upcoming grant opportunities, especially with the Municipal Vulnerability Program and the new One-Stop grant program, focusing on Orchard Street drainage and Walker Brook issues.

Kudos to Highway Superintendent for assisting the Town of Hinsdale’s Highway department recently. At one point they had only one member of their Highway Department available to work, due to staff being sick with COVID. And for an update on Norwich Road, as a resident requested, it is rated lower than 25 other roads in priority. We’re looking at employing StreetScan for an objective review of all roads.

Also, congratulations to Town Planner Grant McGregor and Administrative Assistant Alyssa Maschino for completing their first six months in Dalton. Both have proven to be exemplary employees and have been instrumental to the smooth workings of the Town.

The biggest news is that the Final Rule for American Rescue Plan Act, known as ARPA, was published, and it allows all of Dalton’s funds to be spent on revenue replacement, or almost any governmental use. I had a call with Sandra and our auditor today to clarify eligibility and reporting details, and since we want as much spending to come under this rule as possible, I’ll have an agenda item for your next meeting re-approving the mini-excavator for the Highway Department. Then the vote will have come after the Final Rule and it can be accounted for more easily. We may or may not be able to do the same for the Police repeater, depending on the state of that order.

Finally, the Gulf Road sale documents were recorded today at the Register of Deeds after many last-minute snags were worked through, so that project has been completed, at least on our end.