**Town Manager Update**

*April 11, 2022*

We have received an invitation from Mr. Dassat, Chairman of the Memorial Day Committee, to march in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, gathering at 9 a.m. at the First Methodist Church and beginning at 9:30.

I’m pleased to report that due to the actions of our Town Treasurer, an unemployment claim was resolved in the Town’s favor. An employee had resigned and taken a job at a firm which laid him off. For complex reasons I’m working to address, the unemployment regulations allow a claim to be made against a prior employer. We were able to demonstrate that the employee left of his own accord; the former employee did not attend the hearing; and the case was resolved in the Town’s favor, saving us over $5,000.

We have received word from Rep. Paul Mark that he would be happy to work with the Town to withdraw from the Civil Service system. He and Rep. Pignatelli, whose seat will cover Dalton in the future, will be visiting Town Hall over lunch on May 2, the date of Town Meeting.

We have received a complaint about a portable basketball hoop in a Town road, as a resident feels that safety is an issue. The Town Planner is following up on this.

The Health Agent is working on a plan for dealing with sub-standard housing in town. We will have to consult with Town Counsel, but I expect she will be ready to give you an update and recommendations soon. I also have the latest Covid numbers from her, in a series of charts, and can mail them on request. We’re at 15 for the 7-day count and 33 for the 14-day count.

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, as part of managing the Town’s portion of the Community Development Block Grant, is performing a “Self-evaluation” and a “Transition Plan” for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Representatives toured Town Hall last week as the first step in assessing Town facilities. With a completed Self-Evaluation and a Transition Plan, we will be able to apply for Mass. Office on Disability funding for remediating any deficiencies.

I’m working on a press release about the Transfer Station, including a notice about having an online payment option. I plan to release it in plenty of time for a projected June 1 start to car permit sales.

Finally, the Dalton Open Space and Recreation Committee will be holding the 3rd Annual Pines Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 14th from 10am-12pm. They are looking for community volunteers to help with trash pickup and invasive pulling. More information can be found on their Facebook event page.