**Town Manager Update**

*June 6, 2022*

Most of my recent work has been either with items on this agenda or looking forward to my assistant being back in the office as I try to catch up on her duties.

I am very pleased to announce that the Community Compact grant program has awarded Dalton $60,000 for constructing a fiber optic ring connecting all of our municipal buildings, as well as Pine Grove Park. The Town is expected to contribute a match of about $8,000, which can come either from the newly established grant match fund or from the amended authorization for borrowing for Town IT purposes. I was invited to give a short talk explaining what it meant for Dalton at a ceremony last week and was surprised that two members of the audience came up to introduce themselves afterwards, a Crane and a Chamberlain.

I’m pleased to say that the Gib Kittredge Auction and Awards Ceremony will be on Friday, June 10, and it will honor a number of current and former community members, including our former Health Agent Jayne Smith.

It is now possible to buy transfer station car permits and bag stickers online. Click on the teal banner toward the top. We’re offering a first-time discount for buying the first car sticker online, and we have set the recycling-only sticker fee at half price from the regular cost on the advice of the Waste Management and Recycling Committee.

As I mentioned some time ago, at the urging of the Attorney General’s office, I signed up for opioid settlement money. The funds should begin to be distributed soon, and we don’t yet know just how much Dalton is scheduled to get. The money can only be used for issues related to opioids, or perhaps drug abuse is general; we’ll be getting more refined guidance along with the funds. Municipalities are being encouraged to pool their abatement funds in order to increase their impact, including by utilizing the Department of Public Health’s [Office of Local and Regional Health’s Shared Service](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-health-shared-services) infrastructure, which currently supports 43 regional collaboratives serving 277 municipalities. Some of this might also be able to go toward the DARE program and expanded Narcan availability. I will be seeking the Board’s policy guidance as we move forward.