

Town Planner Update

May 23, 2022

The Planning Board is back to a more regular meeting schedule following Town Meeting. The ADU bylaw presented by the Planning Board passed at Town Meeting with a motion made on the floor pertaining directly to ownership of the units. The Town Clerk and I are submitting the required forms to the Attorney General in order for the bylaw to take effect. Once the process is approved by the Attorney General, the bylaw will effectively be put into law. Chris Brown with BRPC will be assisting the Planning Board in updating the Housing Chapter of Dalton's Master/Comprehensive Plan. Anticipated action steps include forming a Housing Action Plan and A Housing Needs Assessment. The ADU subcommittee (of the Planning Board) has been dissolved following the vote at Town Meeting. The Town at Town Election recently "elected" Don Davis to the Planning Board.

The Board of Appeals has had a few applications come in recently. One for an accessory structure exceeding 625 sq. ft. on East Street. The Board continues to review applications as they are received.

The Dalton Redevelopment Authority has been re-structured following Town Meeting with the Dalton Development and Industrial Commission being dissolved due to lack of participation.

The Green Dalton Committee has been strategizing energy efficiency upgrades to the Town Hall building. The committee is working closely with Pat Pettit and is strategizing grant applications which best fit the needs of the Town's municipal buildings. Preparing the required engineering items to become eligible for the application is a challenge, so a big thank you to the Committee and to Pat for their continued work.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee has entered into an agreement with the non-profit, Greenagers to submit an application to the MassTrails Grant program in February of 2023. The application submitted is for an ADA compliant portion at The Pines, serving to increase recreation options to all residents and visitors. The committee has been doing some work of their own in the area, including the recent Pines Invasive Removal/Clean-Up Day. The committee also seeks to fundraise a \$7,000 match in the form of cash, in-kind services, and contributions from a "private investment company", such as Mill Town Capital.

The Conservation Commission's Municipal Wetlands Bylaw passed at Town Meeting. The Commission and the Clerks are working to submit the required forms to the Attorney General. Once these forms are approved, the bylaw will go into law. The Conservation Commission continues to provide guidance and review when called upon and is seeing an increase in work as the spring is upon us.

In other news, Dalton plans to utilize BRPC's FY22 and FY23 Scope of Work to cover the services of BRPC, its employees (interns). This is regarding the MS4 requirement to update The Town's stormwater mapping. I have conducted a field day which determined the need for interns. In FY23, a similar scope of work is planned to be written into another \$11,000 contract between the Municipality and the RPC.

A team will be making a site visit on June 9th to begin work on preliminary designs for Stormwater Control measures under the Housatonic Watershed Project. The sites were prioritized based on the Green Infrastructure, Stormwater Management Plan, in addition to several local plans. This project stems from a 2000 settlement with GE in which projects are undertaken in effort to keep the

Housatonic Watershed environmentally healthy. This project seems to prepare municipalities for upcoming MS4 requirements. In Fiscal Year 2023, Green Infrastructure will be the requirement, as this year it is mapping the Stormwater System.