**Town Manager Update**

*September 26, 2022*

I, along with my Executive Assistant, have moved our offices into the basement of the old bank building. I call my new office “The Cave,” and invite you to visit and find out why. Alyssa is in the “Outer Cave.” We have the usual Select Board information down there; we’ve barely moved our essentials in at this point.

As you got a hint of earlier, my Executive Assistant is also moving forward with re-constituting the ADA Committee. We have received a draft self-evaluation and transition plan and need to review it before final approval. Then we can use it to inform improvements to not only Town Hall, but all other Town facilities. This will also allow us to finish the final chapter in the Open Space and Recreation Plan, as we’ve been waiting for ADA information to finalize that.

The Town, through a licensed auctioneer, will be auctioning off 32 River Street, essentially a shell, on October 20 at noon. The property will be available for inspection starting at 10 a.m.

Regarding staff changes: Heather Durand has left her position as Assessors’ Clerk, and we are in the process of hiring a replacement. We can also welcome Patty Mele-Nichols, the new Assistant Town Clerk. Michele will be working with her for a short while before heading for the hills.

I attended a presentation at the Stationery Factory to tour the top floor, where Lymphodivas is setting up shop. It was a great chance to see their MassWorks grant in action, and after some prodding, Otis Elevator is starting to follow up on the repairs needed to get the staff elevator running (as opposed to the freight elevator). I also took the opportunity to speak with Reps. Smitty Pignatelli and Paul Mark about Dalton’s General Government Bond bill items and asked Rep. Pignatelli to relay the advocacy to the Lt. Gov., with whom he was conveniently about to meet to discuss the bill.

The Senior Center’s programming has been busy and full. I’ll note especially that they are having a flu clinic on October 7 starting at 1 p.m.; slots are limited, so please sign up soon.

I’ve been working with Tom Irwin on a more coordinated approach to the work of several committees, all focused on sustainability, and he is in touch with staff and committee members to make sure everyone is in the loop. The work at least in part parallels our master plan work, so I anticipate having a member of the Green Committee serving as an at least unofficial liaison to the Planning Board as that work develops.

Speaking of coordination, I’d like to try holding a meeting that was very popular in Conway, a meeting primarily of committee chairs and department heads, though open to all, for committees and departments to share what they have been doing and are planning for the near future. Everyone would get three minutes to say what they’ve done over the last year, what they’re working on now, and what they hope to work on over the next year, with some opportunity for cross-talk. I found it not only inspiring but also an excellent opportunity to see where the work of various committees might inform others or even dovetail. I’m thinking of Thursday, November 3 as the date, and would appreciate any suggestions.