**Town Manager Update**

*November 14, 2022*

I’m pleased to announce that we’re hosting a series of town finance videos on the web site. The videos are on YouTube and were produced by the Department of Revenue’s Division of Local Services. We’re leaving each one up for a week or two under the heading “[Ever wonder how Town finance works?](https://dalton-ma.gov/ever-wonder-about-how-town-finance-works/)” under Notices, on the right-hand side of the home page, and are rotating through a number of offerings. The videos are also available on the DOR-DLS website if anyone wants to see the full range or catch up on one we’ve replaced.

I have split the essential Town Planner duties between Alyssa and myself. I’ve been helping with Planning Board and ZBA work; Alyssa is working with the rest of the committees. I have filed the annual Green Communities report and the quarterly report for the Walker Bridge project.

I have been working with Westfield State University to identify jobs for an undergraduate intern to assist in for academic credit—no payment necessary. I sent a note to all department heads, and we have identified several projects and I’m pleased to report that there is a very promising intern interested in working for us. I have in mind some budget analysis, filing system updating, and there’s a small Board of Health project as well. As part of this work, the intern would shadow me for some part of the time, as well as doing individual work. I expect this arrangement to start in January; with any luck, this can be a pipeline for future staff.

The DPW Superintendent and I had a very informative call with the One Stop grant program to go over the deficiencies on our application for Orchard Road. We gained valuable insights as to how the program works and how to improve the proposal, and the contact said that if we re-wrote it, it would likely be considered a strong proposal.

I’ve been working on an organizing document for the Town Hall visioning group and so am almost ready to convene the group; I’m looking at how to formulate a proposal for a space needs assessment as a first step. The document should be a good way to decide how to move forward with a proposal for a formal space needs assessment and visioning process. If anyone knows of someone who could give some input into how much such a study would cost, I’d appreciate it.

We seem to have some movement on the Citizens’ Energy proposal for the Warren property. Citizens’ now seems to be open to an agreement that would result in the payment of back taxes and the associated fees. I have asked Town Counsel to draw up a draft agreement.

BRPC has offered to have a BRPC staff person work on planning issues for the Town for one or two days per week. I will follow up and see if that makes sense for Dalton in terms of schedules. duties, and costs.