**Town Manager Update**

*December 5, 2022*

In Town Planner news, we spoke informally at the last meeting on supporting higher pay, including a preliminary decision to assist with hiring. This was on the agenda this evening to have that be a formal decision, which I will now take to the Finance Committee. Also, we are looking to job ads geared to the promotion of the Town and the benefits of working for it. I’m also planning to go to an MMA workshop at the annual meeting on innovations in recruiting.

The Council on Aging is asking for a new Program Assistant at 14 hours per week. This is covered for this year by their state formula grant, and we are planning to hire based on that, with a caveat that the position is grant-funded. We would like your preliminary support for an additional $4,500 for next year, as the grant would pay for $8,000 out of the $12,500 cost of next year’s wages.

For an update on the Bardin property: the Mas. Department of Agricultural Resources wants to make the purchase of the Windsor parcel a requirement for us to sell Dalton property. If there is already a purchase-and-sale agreement for that parcel, the Invitation for Bids would be non-competitive if that clause were included. This is a conflict with Chapter 30B procurement law, which requires competitive bidding, and needs to be sorted out before we can proceed. I had thought we had reached an agreement with MDAR on a way to proceed earlier; they have the right of first refusal and could exercise that if the buyer could not purchase the Windsor parcel.

In Planning Board news, they will be reviewing the Housing Needs Assessment performed by BRPC and moving on to a Housing Action Plan, which will become part of the revised Master Plan. They are also looking at Community Land Trusts as a means of providing affordable housing.

The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority is offering free fares this month, the result of a grant to promote the use of their system. Also, BRTA is asking for public input on their transportation plan; a link to the request is on the web.