**Town Manager Update**

*June 26, 2023*

I am very pleased to say that we had an excellent candidate for Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, Jeffrey Burch, who Chief Strout, our DPW Superintendent, Dorin Middlebrook (standing in for Kelly Pizzi) and I liked very much. All his references came back very good. I offered him the position and he has accepted, pending his security clearance and pre-employment physical. He has experience with complex projects, including moving two parochial schools within a building cluster, and is planning to be here for his appointment ratification July 17.

For a Town Hall update, the electrical is almost done; there are a couple of items on a punch list for the general contractor; and the insulation is being installed, with the ceiling tiles being the last major part of the renovation. The asbestos abatement contractor has been patching some damage done when removing tape before both a general cleaning and a scheduled steam cleaning of the carpets finishes the work.

We received one bid for the Bardin property, for $150,000, from Charlotte Crane. She has apparently met all the requirements of the request for proposals and so I am planning to declare her the winner, pending a final review from Town Counsel. Town Counsel will also notify the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources in accordance with the requirement that the seller of APR land, being the Town, give them 60 days’ notice so they can consider exercising their right of first refusal.

In other project and procurement news, bids for the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, to be installed behind the CRA, are due this Wednesday, June 28th, at 2:00 p.m. The Fiber Ring is almost completely strung so we’re almost ready to make the Town Hall connections, with the internal data wiring set for a July installation. Also, the sewer repair project is almost ready to bid; Town Counsel is working with the engineer on some of the details of that process.

The DPW Superintendent and I attended the June 22 meeting of the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District, where Dalton was voted in as a member.

The DPW Superintendent is working on a sample area of downtown to pilot a sidewalk planning program for inspecting, estimating, and repairing Town sidewalks. This will involve accounting for various causes of sidewalk disrepair and laying out options for addressing those. The pilot program should provide an indication of the amount of money it would take to expand the program to other areas of town.

A number of Town staff participated in a “tabletop” emergency management exercise on Tuesday, which MEMA judged a great success, both in terms of participation and in terms of the discussion. Kudos to our Emergency Management Director for securing the Stationery Factory as the venue, helping produce the event, and advancing Dalton’s emergency readiness.

I had a well-attended staff meeting on Wednesday where I updated staff on my projects and staff updated each other on their work as well. Regular monthly meetings are planned for the future.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer has inspected the parking situation at Zinky’s and has found that they are substantially in compliance, with only an ADA compliance issue to resolve.

The Animal Control Officer received and investigated a complaint against a resident regarding dogs and has requested a nuisance dog hearing for your next agenda.