**Town Manager Update**

*July 17, 2023*

The last few weeks have been quite fruitful, as befits the season.

The Town Hall renovation project is almost complete, with just some cleaning up to do and a very few outstanding items to take care of. While the project has not reached the formal designation of “substantially complete,” I expect that landmark will be reached either later this week or next week. The Town Clerk is slated to be the first office moved back in, during the first week of August.

The Green Committee has been working hard on the Electric Vehicle Charging Station project, funded by ARPA, which will create two charging stations (with four chargers) in back of the CRA. They hope to create more charging stations with the reimbursements the Town will get from that project.

The Town Hall Data Wiring project is in full swing, with CDS Unlimited having started work last week.

The first part of the Fiber Ring project is almost complete, with just minor stringing to go before turning the project over for the second part of the project, making the internal connections so that all Town computers will be on the same network. This work is being done through a Community Compact grant I applied for in March of 2022.

Town Planner Janko Tomasic started work on Monday, July 10 and has been busy acquainting himself with the work of the various committees he will be supporting. I’ll be working with him over the next couple of Planning Board and ZBA meetings to make sure he’s up to speed on everything before fully turning things over to him.

Town Counsel is working with the winning bidder for the Bardin property on the Purchase and Sale agreement. We are also in touch with the Mass. Dept. of Ag. Resources regarding the sale.

I worked with the Town Accountant and the Finance Committee—and this Board as well—to settle the very few remaining financial issues left over from Fiscal Year 2023.

Dalton Community Television has requested that the Town enter into the process of negotiating a contract with Spectrum, as they have equipment issues and need consideration of capital expenses.

I attended the annual meeting of the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts, where we heard from the new Director of Rural Affairs, Anne Gobi; the Inspector General, who announced a program to fund the Certified Procurement Official designation for one person from each municipality if the town cannot afford it otherwise; and the new State Auditor, who is interested in tracking state spending in small towns.

I’ll also note that Dalton Day was a great success, though it was produced on a shoestring budget and by a very few volunteers, especially the Cultural Council, and I want to especially thank my executive assistant Alyssa Maschino for her central role in providing energy and focus to the production. Vendors reported they had a good day, and attendees under the music tent responded very favorably when asked if the Town should continue the event in the future. Please send any ideas you have for future years to the Cultural Council.