

Town Manager Update

May 28, 2024

I have been busy mostly moving existing projects forward and talking with Department heads regarding new projects approved at Town Meeting.

I have replied to the people who had expressed complaints about the Health Agent and have had the Health Agent respond to those complaints. While at least one response was not fully satisfactory, we have taken a good step forward, and I intend to continue working toward a mutually agreeable understanding.

The second issue of the Dalton newsletter has gone out, at 5 pages. Please subscribe and let us know what you think, and please participate in the contest to name the newsletter.

As of May 14, our new Librarian, Janet Forest, in collaboration with the Green Dalton Committee, started the thermal camera checkout program. This will allow residents to see where their houses leak heat so they can most efficiently upgrade their insulation.

The Town has received \$114,657 from the new Rural Roadway Funding Program, an initiative of the Healey-Driscoll administration.

After a number of delays, the Town Garage insulation project is slated to be done the second week of June. When this is done and I write the project report, the Town can apply for another Green Communities grant. The Dalton Green Committee would like to apply for funds to do the heat pumps on the third floor. I'm hoping we can use the voted funds to do the engineering, get the grant, and then, if the cost estimate and bids are higher than we estimated, use the remaining voted funds as a supplement.

Finally, I would like to commend our DPW Superintendent, Bud Hall, for completing sufficient training through MassDOT to reach the level of a Master Roads Scholar. This involved 110 contact hours of eligible Baystate Roads programs in specific fields.

I convened a staff group (including assistance from the Council on Aging Director in Adams, a Dalton resident) to develop policies and procedures for the condemnation assistance fund on May 15. The meeting was very productive in not only identifying a number of items to work on but in getting suggestions for resources to help streamline the process. We have another meeting set for mid-June.