



Report of the Town Manager

August 9, 2021

1. Financial Updates-

- a. The first installment of ARPA funding has been wired into our accounts.
- b. Veteran's payments have been certified by the state and will be rolling out on a consistent basis moving forward.
- c. I coordinated with department heads to develop a list of capital items that would fall under the state ARPA umbrella. This list came in over \$96,000,000 in infrastructure needs. This does not include roads.
- d. I attended a meeting with the Finance Committee last week to participate in their goal setting discussion. This collaboration will help ensure FinCom's goals are aligned with the financial priorities set by the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager's office.
- e. ARPA Spreadsheet update attached.

2. Personnel Updates-

- a. N/A

3. Project Updates-

- a. The Winchendon Housing Authority lent the use of their lift so that BCA Architects could further inspect Town Hall to develop a conditions assessment.
- b. I toured Town Hall with Jim Hachey from Monty Tech to identify potential projects that would fit within their curriculum. Special thanks to Moe Ward for making the introduction.
- c. Work has started to replace the railings at Town Hall along Front Street. Samples of the existing millwork have been removed and are being replicated off site.
- d. I attended a site visit for the Winchendon Community Park in late July. This included members from various boards, predominantly Zoning, to address any questions as the project moves through the permitting process.
- e. Phase 2 site testing is underway at 3-11 Beech Street, including a recent round of ground penetrating radar to detect possible underground fuel tanks.
- f. I was joined by DPW and Planning & Development to examine the corner across the street (Lake and Spring). We are working to identify funds to place

a modest green space there to improve the appearance of our “Downtown Gateway”.

- g. We will be flipping Front St. to a one way down the hill towards Lake Street as a preliminary effort to examine the traffic pattern heading into Blair Square. As part of this, traffic will be directed down Lake St (also one way), then up Spring Street. Lake Street will be freshly paved in advance of this change using Ch.90.
- h. Our team continues to meet weekly with representatives from Bull Spit Brewery to ensure the 4 Summer Drive property remains on schedule. Exterior asbestos remediation will begin this week, while the interior remediation is complete. A P&S for the property is currently being drafted by legal counsel.
- i. I met with architects from Tighe & Bond at Old Murdock Senior Center last week to discuss the needed repairs. Given the value of the project, we will need to secure an OPM prior to selecting a designer. This RFP will be going out this fall, with a designer to be secured over the winter, repairs in the early summer.
- j. A pre-construction meeting was held for the Railroad St. project – with work expected to begin shortly after Labor Day. This will include new sidewalks stretching down to Central Street, more trees, and better-defined curb cuts.
- k. We released an RFP for design services to replace the water main from Ashburnham along Sherbet Road. This will help us address ongoing water infrastructure needs throughout the community.

4. Miscellaneous Updates –

- a. I met with the President of Franklin Pierce University to talk about opportunities for a partnership that would benefit both parties. We will work together to create avenues for FPU students to volunteer in our community, opportunities for our WPS students to pursue a degree should they desire after high school, and coordinate interactions between our athletic programs and those at the University.
- b. I met with the owner of the IGA and our Town Planner on site to discuss barriers to the site. We will be working closely to try to secure a tenant for that high profile storefront in the heart of our downtown.
- c. I attended a virtual seminar to discuss the Montachusett Economic Development District & Montachusett Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies. This was in part to advocate for a regional effort to utilize ARPA funding for the expansion of broadband throughout the area.
- d. I have been regularly communicating with our Board of Health to track announcements from the DPH and CDC in relation to the spread of COVID-19. Winchendon as of Thursday the 5th is seeing a 3.73% positivity rate, an increase from .35% in mid-July. Vaccination rates in town rest around 45%, over 20% lower than the state average. A flyer regarding our Vaccination Demographics is attached.

