



March 5, 2021 Edition

## TOWN MANAGER HIGHLIGHTS

- I had the pleasure of reading via Zoom to the students in Ms. Lear's fourth grade class today as part of the Celebration of Reading. Thank you to the following staff members who also were able to join in the fun: Police Sgt. Chad Arrowsmith, Fire Fighter Tyler Belanger, Police Captain Kevin Chabot, Fire Chief Mark DuPuis, Assistant Library Director Allison Herman, Animal Control Officer Caitlin Lipert, Fire Fighter Zach Litvinchyk, School Resource Officer Stephanie Morini, School Resource Officer John Riegel, and Police Sgt. Adam Shaw.
- The Parks & Recreation parking lot expansion begins this month. We are looking forward to working with US Site Solutions to create better access to programs and activities at the Walter Marsh Recreation Area on Branch Rd. Construction should be complete by the end of June.
- We are hiring for summer positions. If you or someone you know is looking for a summer gig in a great town with wonderful people please send them to our [website](#) for more information.
- Our DPW Director has a great explanation of the reason for seasonal road postings below. You can find the complete listing of posted roads on our [website](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 3/9/2021

Staff Review Committee @  
9AM

### 3/10/2021

Lodging Facilities Advisory  
Committee @ 1PM

### 3/10/2021

Budget Review Committee @ 5:30PM

### 3/11/2021

Conservation Commission  
@6PM

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Planning Board approved the Littlefield Road Solar project and the Curaleaf Medical Marijuana Dispensary. An expansion to Congdons parking was reviewed and updates and continuances for subdivision applications given. A zoning change to the RC District was workshopped, public hearing was held and a recommendation provided to the Board of Selectmen for consideration for the June Town Meeting. A workshop with the Fire Chief was held on street standards and fire ponds.

## LIBRARY UPDATE

March is bringing a hint of spring and makes us want to sing! Come learn about female ragtime composers at Women of Ragtime with Cherry & Jerry on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. Then join the Sea Shanty craze with Bennett Konesni on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. Learn about the history of sea shanties and some new tunes to sing.

March's Wishful Reading title is a new Hercule Poirot mystery, *The Monogram Murders*, by Sophie Hanna. Tuesday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. Email Stefanie at [sclaydon@wellstown.org](mailto:sclaydon@wellstown.org) for adult programming invitations and information. For young adults, check out our new TikTok. Meghan has a great craft demo for you and more will be coming! For children, Mother Goose Story Time on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and Toddler Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. are available on YouTube and Facebook. Email Allison at [aherman@wellstown.org](mailto:aherman@wellstown.org) for more information.

## PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Spring is almost here, the florescent orange signs that have appeared on many roads are a sure sign of spring. Those signs notify road users that the road is "posted", which means that loads over 23,000 pounds are prohibited from using the road. There are exemptions for equipment like life safety vehicles, school buses, road maintenance vehicles, utility equipment and oil trucks. If the road is solidly frozen, air temperature of 32 degrees or below, heavier vehicles are allowed to travel on the road. Roads are posted for the spring thaw because water attacks pavement. In early winter, any water under the pavement freezes and expands making room by pushing everything around it, including the pavement. This creates cracks in the pavements and on warm days melting snow adds water under the pavement, and the cycle is repeated. In the spring as the ice under the pavement thaws, it does not require the same space, so voids are created. If the pavement is then pushed on hard enough it does not have structural support so it fails and potholes begin to appear. Because this freeze-thaw action is frequently repeated in the spring pavement damage gets worse and worse. By restricting the weight that a pavement in this condition is subject to, damage to the pavement is reduced. Reconstructed highways are built with materials and drainage pipes that move the water out from under the pavements and off to the ditches or other drainage structures on the side of the roads. Posting roads means that those heavy loads either cannot be transported, or on routes that go over unposted roads. There is a serious impact to the movement of needed goods and associated cost. We try to be reasonable and flexible with the length of time roads are posted, and the weather during the time they are posted. The posted roads are listed on the town's website. Please call Public Works if you have a question about road postings or if you need permission for an emergency heavy load movement.