

Town Manager's Report
January 13, 2020

Happy New Year to all. As the new year begins the staff is currently working on the early stages of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. This includes capital planning, departmental operations, and review of revenues. As part of that review, I will be adding a review of the current fee structure for council review in the February agenda.

Public Works Director Malley and I recently met with the Town's Tree Warden, Todd Robbins, and the subjects were long range planning for tree maintenance in the Park, winter moth, and the Emerald Ash Borer, which is a new invasive pest affecting Ash trees. He reported that the Winter Moth is not as robust as we experienced the prior three years, but still requires vigilance. In terms of the Emerald Ash Borer, he is working with staff at the Thomas Memorial Library to provide an informational program in the near future.

The search for a new Library Director is underway, and the search committee will be reviewing the application packets received, scheduling first round interviews, and moving the process forward. Rachel Davis will serve as the interim Library Director once Kyle Neugebauer finishes his duties. We hope to have a new Director in place by mid to late February.

Thursday evening at 7 pm we will be hosting a public information session regarding the proposed new sidewalk sections in the Town Center. The first segment, planned for construction this spring will be from Cumberland Farms to the Methodist Church as part of the Municipal Partnership Initiative with the State Department of Transportation. The other two segments are planned for construction in two years, running from C-Salt to Fowler Road as part of a PACTS grant.

After many demonstrations and quotes for pricing, I have entered into an agreement with evogov for a complete redesign of the Town's website. This will take some time for migrating our archives and other content as well as a new design and format, but we are looking to have this completed before the end of the current fiscal year.

Finally, Tina Sweeney will be leaving the tax office at the end of January as she enters what we all wish is a long and happy retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew E. Sturgis
Town Manager