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March 3, 2020

Hi Everyone:

I hope you are well. We have lots going on the next few months, and if you've been down Old Dalton Road this week, you'll see tree work has begun. The project is out to bid today, and in early April, the Select Board will be hiring the company that will reconstruct the road. We are also busy working on our budgets for the Fiscal Year 2021. More on these stories and other information below.

Oh, and remember to turn your clocks ahead this Saturday night, a sure sign that Spring is coming.

Best to you all,

Bob

An Update on Old Dalton Road

As mentioned above, Old Dalton Road tree work is being done this week. Highway Superintendent Bud Hall is having the tree canopy opened up. This will help the road dry faster this Spring, and will help to keep the road dryer in the years ahead. I hope you are excited to see the work beginning.

The bid package to repair the road was made public today. As with any project of this expense, the Town is required to post and publicize the bid process in the newspaper, the Town Hall, and next milestone is to have the project out to bid around the first week of March, with bids due back by the first week of April. The Select Board plans to award the construction contract in mid-April, and construction shall begin in mid to late May. The project should be completed by the first week of November.

FY2021 Budget Preparation

This weekend, members of both the Select Board and Finance Committee shall meet with department heads and committee chairs to discuss their proposals for the Town's 2020-2021 Budget. This all-day Saturday meeting provides time for everyone to reflect on the needs and projects ahead for the Town. Then, over the next several weeks, the Select Board and Finance Committee work collaboratively to prepare a reasonable budget for your consideration at the Annual Town Meeting, Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Hinsdale's Kittredge School gymnasium.

The Sidewalk Committee survey

The Sidewalk Committee requests that you take their survey.

[Click here](#) to do so.

Public Health Information

The **COVID-19** (coronavirus) situation has been reported in at least 64 countries on six continents. While serious, medical experts say, there are things we can all do to keep ourselves and others around us healthy -- [practice good personal hygiene](#) (see details below and on the links).

Massachusetts are that you seek medical care if you have fever and cough and have, in the last 14 days, traveled to China, Iran, South Korea, or Italy or been exposed to anyone with COVID-19. These recommendations are likely to change over the next few weeks as more is known about the virus, and more resources become available for testing.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control both have excellent resources available on-line, and they are updated continuously. So rather than fretting over rumors or sensational news stories, get the facts from the CDC (Center for Disease Control or the Mass State Health Department. And revisit these sites for updates and accurate medical information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Good Hygiene Practices

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health also reminds us, that we are in the midst of a significant (annual) flu epidemic across the country and that unvaccinated people should still get the flu vaccine. Those 18 and over should be able to get vaccinated at a local pharmacy (remember to bring your insurance card), others should consult their family practitioner.

To avoid catching and spreading the flu and other respiratory viruses, including **COVID-19**:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough into your elbow/shirt-sleeve rather than your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and ears as best you can.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Do not share drinking glasses, utensils, bites of other's food or sip's of others drink -- anything that goes in your mouth.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) using a regular household detergent/soap and water.

From the Town Clerk's Office

The Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Nomination papers for the Town Election will be available on Monday, March 9th from 10:30 to 12:00, and all regular office hours up to the deadline. (If there are any problems in obtaining papers, please contact this office: 652301)

The last day to obtain nomination papers will be March 23rd 10:30 – 12:00 noon

Last day to submit nomination papers will be March 25 by 5 PM

Last day to register to vote for the Town Meeting and Election is Thursday, April 23 from 2-4 PM and 7-8 PM

Offices that will appear on the ballot are:

- 1 Selectman for three years
- 1 Assessor for three years
- 3 Finance Members for three years
- 1 Town Clerk for three years
- 1 Planning Board member for five years
- 1 Planning Board member for four years (to fill a vacancy)



- Mondays from 10:30 til Noon, and
- Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00

Proof of spaying or neutering and current rabies vaccination status are due before a license is issued.

Dog License Fees

- Individual animal, Spayed or Neutered = \$10.00
- Individual animal, not spayed or neutered = \$20.00
- 2 to 8 animal kennel = \$50.00
- More than 8 animals = \$100.00



Late Registration

Dogs need to have a current License by March 31, 2020.

A \$25.00 Late registration fee will be applied to License requests as of April 1, 2020

Please consider helping plan the Memorial Day program

The Select Board seeks a small group to volunteer to plan a Memorial Day ceremony, as the former group is no longer available. If you are interested in participating, please email a note saying just that to select.board@hinsdalema.gov. Thank you.

Important Dates

March 3 -- Presidential Primary Election Day

April 20 -- Patriots Day, Town Hall is Closed

May 13 -- Annual Town Meeting

May 16 -- Town Election Day

May 25 -- Memorial Day, Town Hall Closed



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