



Town of Hinsdale Newsletter

March 14, 2018

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Hi Everyone:

I hope that you are well. All this snow is bringing a new meaning to March Madness for me.

I remember delivering newspapers on my bike this time of year, cursing the snow. My Dad would then say, "March comes in like a lion Bob, and will go out like a lamb." Well, this year's lamb can't come soon enough! I am eager for green grass, baseball, and the smell of BBQ cooking on the grill.

Here is what has been going on in Town:

Special Town Meeting Update

We had a second Special Town meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, approximately forty residents attended, and addressed the three articles on the warrant. The outcome of those articles follows:

- Plunkett Gate Valve Project, financing from Stabilization – Passed Unanimously
- Sewer Infiltration and Inundation Study, Part II – Passed Unanimously
- Funding a search and early hiring of Polly's replacement Collector – Rejected (21/20)

Hinsdale's Hazard Mitigation Plan – The 5 Year Update

As you may know, a group of us are working with Emergency Management Director Ray Bolduc to update our Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard Mitigation is just one of several Emergency Management Activities. Mitigation involves sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from disasters or serious hazards.

The group reviewed the existing plan, and ran through the planning process again, paying close attention to anything that was missing and adding things that are new or that may have changed to our updated plan. We also have done some outreach with our Police, Fire, Water and Sewer departments, as well as outreach to the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Now, we need feedback from you, the residents of our Town. What may we have missed or forgotten about in regards to Hazards in Hinsdale? Please take a few minutes to complete the attached survey, available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/17DJ6DC> (This takes you to Survey Monkey.)

Thanks in advance for your help.

Snow Removal

The Highway Department has been out-straight working to keep our roads safe, which is not an easy task when snow is falling three inches per hour. So, a big thank you to Rene and the road crew for their hard work the past few weeks. I also ask for everyone's patience as the snow melts in the coming weeks and

the road needs become more apparent. The staff plan to be assessing and repairing things in the coming months.

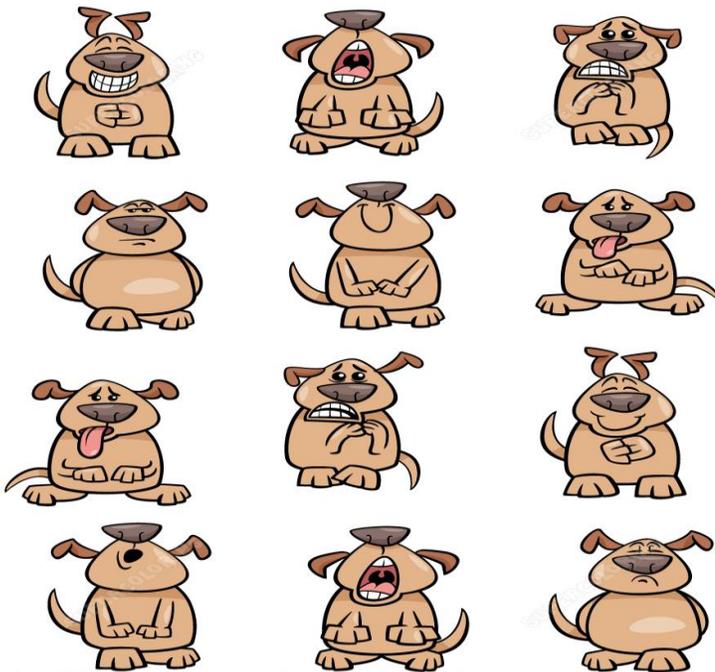
The Plunkett Gate Valve Project

Since the scuba divers verified all the measurements and took video of the existing valve beneath the water, the engineers have placed the order with a delivery date of the replacement, April 4, 2018. The bulk of the work will take approximately two weeks, with set up and clean up on each end. At this time, we expect the project to be complete by May 8, 2018. Based on how they have performed so far, I believe that our contractor Roach and Sons will hit the mark.

High-Speed Internet

I know that many of you are still waiting for Charter/Spectrum to deliver on their internet-service-for-all promise. With their latest self-set deadline of the "end of March" looming, it appears as if they will fail us once again. I am sorry this is taking so long.

Reminder from the Town Clerk's Office



Dogs need to be licensed by March 31, 2018. If your dog is not licensed by this deadline, you will be assessed a \$25.00 late registration fee for each dog you own. We'd rather not assess late fees, so please register your dog ASAP. Thanks.

The Fee Schedule is as follows:

- Spayed/neutered, \$10.00
- Not Spayed/Neutered, \$20.00
- Kennel, 2-8 dogs, \$50.00
- Kennel, * or more, \$100.00

The Town's website work continues

If you haven't seen the Town's website in a while, I urge you to take a look. The address is www.hinsdalemass.com. The homepage looks different and should be easier to navigate to the information you seek. We are working on a Town History page and plan to have photos of past events displayed in an easy to use format, compatible with the tools that are easy for users to access. Several people have already used the new "Contact Town Hall" feature, seeking quick answers to their questions. Admin Assistant Kathe Warden and I both get these messages and try to respond as soon as possible after viewing them. Because many staff works part-time, it may take a few days to get a specific answer,

but we write to let the inquirer know when they can expect a response. We hope that this is helpful to residents.

The FY 2019 Budget Process

All department heads and committee chairs have submitted their budgets for FY2019, and members of the Select Board and the Finance Committee heard from each of them last Saturday, March 10, to discuss their requests, ask questions, and request follow-up information as we work collectively to formulate next year's budget.

Both the Board and the Finance Committee will continue to work on this through the end of April, so we are prepared to present a cohesive budget to the Town at the Annual Town Meeting on May 16, 2018.

Annual Town Meeting – May 16, 2018

Mark your calendars, the Select Board has scheduled this year's meeting as follows:

Annual Town Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
7:00 PM
Kittredge School Auditorium
Maple Street,
Hinsdale, MA 01235

Town Elections – May 19, 2018

Elections will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2018. The election will run from 10am-6pm in the Town Hall Community Room that day.

Town Election Papers

Town Election Papers are available from the Clerk's Office as of March 19, 2018. Nomination papers need to be returned to the Clerk on or before 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 2018.

Offices listed on the May 19th annual election ballot include:

Select Board:	One three-year term
Assessor:	One three-year term
Finance Board:	Three three-year term
Moderator:	One three-year term
Planning Board:	One five-year term

The Mission and Vision Plan

The Mission and Vision Plan (MVP) that was drafted last fall and completed last month with the help of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. It is now a public draft on the website at <https://www.hinsdalemass.com/mission-vision-working-group>. The MVP is ambitious and documents both goals and challenges for the Town to address in the coming years.

The Select Board will host a Community Forum to discuss the MVP in mid to late April. Watch for more information about this forum in the April Newsletter.

Projects Out for Bid

Two of the three projects mentioned in last month's newsletter (#2-Mowing, and #3-Vocational Transportation) have been put out to bid. The third (#1-Cemetery Arch project) will go out later this week. The delay was my fault, but the project is still expected to be completed by the end of June.

Gun Safety

The Hinsdale Police Department will be sponsoring a gun safety course. The course will cover handgun safety, MA gun Laws, fingerprinting, and passport photos (Utah) as a complete package. **Please stop at the station to sign up!**

Saturday, April 14, 2018
Hinsdale Police Department
Community room
39 South Street



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MASSACHUSETTS LTC/FID course	\$ 70.00
Utah course (permit covers 31 states)	125.00
Utah combo with MA	150.00

Tree List Update

In March 2017, the Town's consulting Arborist David C. Hawkins provided my predecessor with a Tree Risk Assessment. The assessment report documented 69 potentially hazardous Town Trees that were either severely cracked, dying, or dead, and needed trimming, pruning, or removal. With the help of Jeff's Tree Service, we begin the process of addressing these hazardous trees. Jeff has completed work on 37 of the higher priority trees. He also treated five others that had become problematic in storms between Thanksgiving and New Year's day. Right now, 32 trees remain on our initial list, and with additional funding approval at this May's Annual Town Meeting, we will complete this project on time or ahead of schedule (initially we thought it would take three years, but now could likely be done in two). Kudos to Jeff's Tree Service!

DOT/Registry of Motor Vehicles Info

Check out the announcement section of the website to learn more about the new ID requirements to get a license renewal and the special RMV hours at the end of March. You can see that information here: <https://www.hinsdalemass.com/announcements>

Nostalgia



The Hinsdale Woolen Mill



Cutting ice on the Lake (Does anyone know which one? My guess is Plunkett.)

That's it for now. Have a **Happy St. Patrick Day**, and think spring.

Best,

Bob