

TOWN HALL MONTHLY: April

Signs of spring along with winter weather showed up during March meetings. Board of Selectmen agendas included permit applications for new building and requests for proposals for 2023 road projects AND we had to postpone Town Meeting for only the second time in memory.

As we have noted, this year Selectmen are working with Bob Porter within the Town's building permit process. Mr. Porter is reviewing permit applications for Zoning Ordinance compliance, meeting with property owners as needed and making recommendations to the Board on applications. The Board reviewed and approved a new fee schedule for building permits which brings us more in line with neighboring towns and creates distinctions between small and large projects rather than one size fits all.

In preparation for the construction season Selectmen reviewed and released a request for proposals for top-coating the FEMA repairs made to Charlestown Road last year. A contractor meeting was held and we anticipate receiving several bids for review early in April. The amount of work the Town does on flood repairs will be determined by whether voters agree to further financing at the Town Meeting now scheduled for March 28.

The postponing of the originally scheduled Town Meeting date of March 14 came in response to the significant northeaster which began March 13 and lasted until March 15. Because Town Meeting day voting includes ballot voting on the five town Fall Mountain Regional School District, the decision to postpone required consensus by the moderators from all five towns. Jennifer Bland facilitated an online meeting for the five moderators and Select board and highway department representatives. At first Alstead and Acworth lead the request to postpone with Walpole, Charlestown and Langdon opting to meet. After discussion in which it was noted that weather conditions in Alstead and Acworth can be more difficult than neighboring towns and, that as a five town district consideration among members is desirable, consensus moved to postponing. State law on postponing requires a two week postponement period. We were all probably happy to stay home March 14.

At their meeting February 27, the Planning Board also saw signs of spring with subdivision consultations for properties on Duncan and Black North Roads. Chairman Joe Fedora was thanked for his work on the Board as he steps down effective Town Meeting. In addition to regularly occurring business in the coming year, the Board will be preparing for Master Plan updating which is required by State law.

The Conservation Commission is continuing to work on a Conservation Plan for the Town and updating our Town forests management planning.

All Town boards meeting are open to the public. Our monthly meeting schedule is posted around Town and listed on the website. Find an area that interests you and hop on in.

See you soon, Kathi