

## TOWN HALL MONTHLY: April

Over one hundred Townspeople attended Town Meeting on March 12 and approximately 140 participated in School District and Town ballot voting during the day.

The first item in the evening meeting was consideration of a new flood repair loan and we were able to note that two million dollars of our 2021 loan has been repaid. With about \$90,000 of that loan remaining and FEMA reimbursements to cover pending, voters were willing to enter into a new loan for repairs from the 2023 flood. It is possible borrowed money will not be needed. If it is, the Town now has that option.

Voters also agreed to the replacement of our oldest truck, a 2012 Ford, and to funding several Capital Reserve Funds, the Town operating budget and the engineering of a replacement of the Forest Road Bridge. Monies spent on the Forest Road Bridge will be reimbursed at 80% because of our participation in the State Bridge Aid Program.

There was helpful discussion about why the Town should not adopt the State building code and we anticipate more study of options to that during the year.

Ryanne Schoonover joined the Select Board as a new member and will also be the Selectmen's representative to the Conservation Commission in the coming year. We are so fortunate to have new people willing to participate in Town government especially in this time when everyone has plenty to do. We are also lucky to have so many renewing Town officials who we rely on while hardly noticing their continued years of service. They are what keeps the Town going.

Steven Murray will join the Planning Board. That Board will begin writing the 2024 update to the Town Master Plan using ideas and preferences provided in response to the Board's recent questionnaire to property owners.

There's a lot to do this year. We will be following the engineering of a new Forest Road Bridge and the engineering of restoration of Thayer Brook and Crane Brook Roads. We will also be following the Department of Environmental Services efforts to restore Bowers Brook to its pre-2023 flood channel. Add to those the Planning Board Master Plan update and the Conservation Commission work to create a Town Conservation Plan and you can find lots of opportunities to be involved. All Town boards' meetings are open to the public and posted on local bulletin boards and the website.

See you soon, Kathi