

## TOWN HALL MONTHLY: May

In April the construction season opened and Selectmen addressed continuing flood repairs. At their April 4 meeting Selectmen met with flood engineer Erin Darrow to review restarting repairs on Crane Brook Road and options for permanent repairs to the Forest Road Bridge.

The 2021 contracts and permitting for the opening and stabilizing of Crane Brook continue to June 1. JP Trucking resumed work on the lower section of road April 11 and St. Pierre is scheduled to resume work on the upper section April 25. Work had stopped January 1 due to winter conditions. Now there are a few remaining culvert replacements and considerable bank stabilization needed to complete this first stage of reconstruction. Once that is completed reclamation and repaving will be scheduled for 2023. Resuming work now will involve periods of road closure and the reopening of the emergency lane over Holden Hill.

At the Forest Road Bridge the Town and FEMA are weighing two options. One would reuse the bridge deck installed several years ago attempting to insert needed abutments beneath it. A second option would replace the bridge and avoid problems possible when trying to merge old work and new work. The second option would have the longer life span. FEMA is likely to have the determining vote in the outcome. Either option will fall into the 2023 construction season.

Other flood repair work is being done at smaller damage sites by our own crew and contractors.

The Board also reviewed property owner building permit applications, Intents to Cut and Intents to Excavate, renewed our annual contract with Acworth Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company and lifted the Covid restriction on Town Hall rentals. A list of Town owned properties recommended for sale by the Conservation Commission was reviewed. The Commission's work on this list has been considerable including site visits and wetlands research. A list of five properties is ready for James St. Jean Auctioneers who conducted our auction last year. Proceeds from the 2021 auction were \$115,000.

At the Transfer Station our crew handled required maintenance on the compactor at a substantial saving. The compactor is 10 years old and the Town has now voted \$20,000 into a capital reserve fund for its replacement when that time comes. Work is being done to meet the State's requirements for reopening the burn pit. The Town crew has worked on grooming the surrounding area. Watch our website and bulletin boards for more information on that.

The Planning Board hosted a spring Joint Boards Meeting on April 25. A program offered by our Regional Planning office to inventory 125 road/stream-crossing culverts was reviewed. There was consensus the data this inventory would provide could help the Town on many levels including the Planning Board's work developing road project schedules for the Capital Improvement Plan and the Conservation Commission's work protecting sensitive wetland areas.

Its spring and Town boards are busy. All meetings are open to everyone. Stop by, all input is appreciated.

See you soon, Kathi