

TOWN HALL MONTHLY: April

On March 11 voters filled the Town Hall for this year's Town Meeting. The annual budget, deposits to our ongoing capital reserve funds and a FEMA project which will restore Derry Hill Road were approved by the voters.

The annual budget is the first since the 2021 flood to cover non-flood road projects including drainage work on Cold Pond Road. The budget uses FEMA reimbursements to cover engineering for our remaining FEMA projects. The Town tax rate impact for the annual budget is estimated to be 50 cents lower than last year's rate.

Our ongoing capital reserve funds are savings accounts which will help defray future costs for a required fire truck upgrade, any future highway equipment needs, bridge replacements, our next statutory revaluation, and unexpected costs relating to Town buildings. By adding a little to these savings accounts each year we are better positioned to avoid spikes in our tax rate.

The Derry Hill project is not a Town budget item. It uses money which FEMA estimated for Nye Road in 2021 and which was not used for that road. The drainage work which has been done on Derry Hill made it a ready candidate to receive the funding and FEMA supported the project. The purpose of our vote was to show Townspeople's support for the alternate site.

In voting on Town officials, most of our officials were returned to office including me. I am grateful for your confidence. A vacancy on the Planning Board was filled by Dean Gowen who was elected as a write-in candidate.

Town Meeting is like New Years in town government. With the voters' approval we can move forward on this year's projects and there's a lot to do. All board and committee meetings are open to everyone. If you are interested in the great outdoors, check out the Conservation Commission. If you are interested in planning for the future, check out the Planning Board. If you are interested in how the Town works, come to a Select board meeting. The meeting schedule is posted on Town bulletin boards and our website where you can also find minutes from past meetings. It takes all of us to keep this little town going.

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