

Mayor's Report – October 2021

We have officially entered the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the way that our town properly documents all financials and keeps our budget. We are all hopeful that the changes that have been made within the office over the last 6 to 9 months will pave the way for a successful year and audit season. The Town has made great strides and anticipates meeting the audit schedule this year and are striving to make the corrections requested this summer. Regarding our finances, the Town is seeking two volunteers for our Finance Committee. If this is an area that you feel you can assist, or perhaps you know a neighbor that would be a great candidate, please let us know. Many of our Town's functions are run by volunteers, we cannot succeed without you! On that note, I am happy to report that the Charter Review Committee has kicked off and as a resident, I am excited to see this process through. We have a great team of residents, and our Town Attorney has also graciously offered to volunteer his time to answer any questions and provide resources to help them succeed.

Work has continued along Canal Road with crews coming in to tie the exposed pipes and bury them beneath the ground. Following the last bit of work, crews will continue to be in our town intermittently as they run tests on the system. Work is estimated to be fully completed by February 2022.

Public Works anticipates beginning a large tree trimming effort as we step into November. They will be utilizing a lift and doing tree work throughout the Town to shape and encourage growth in a safe manner. Most of our streets have limbs that while they create a beautiful canopy, are dangerous to large vehicles that use our roads including garbage and delivery trucks, emergency vehicles and even residents' personal recreation vehicles. Many of these limbs become even lower after heavy rains. As stated earlier this summer, our Public Works department will often spend hours each week especially in the growing season, trimming branches back off the roadway and clearing lines of site. By moving forward with a yearly or once every two-year major trimming effort, the goal is to better utilize town resources, encourage our trees to grow in a way that makes commuting through the Village safe for all, and eliminating potential hazards for storm season. Rest assured that they will be taking every precaution to shape our roadways in a way that is still inviting and beautiful while also bringing our streets up to the needed 14' clearance.

Finally, today, October 26th, marks one week until our next election. I want to encourage you all to please take the time to vote. The only issue on our ballot this year is to fill vacancies for 4 Commissioner seats. This is important to you as residents as it is the Commission who sets your Town budget, policies, ordinances, and more. As our Commission is comprised of only 7 seats, to have over half our positions available is notable. Polls will be open from 7am-7pm on Tuesday, November 2, here at the AHF Hall. As a reminder, your candidates this year are: Valerie Calenda, Johnathan Cronkhite, Susan Ditty, Chris Haley, Gary Ingram, Perter McCharles, and Gerda Murphy. We hope to see a great turnout next week!

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve. Wishing you all health and safety.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor