

TO: Selectboard
FROM: Rod Francis, Acting Town Manager
RE: Acting Town Manager Report
DATE: October 21, 2021

DPW Staffing

We have filled one of the vacant Equipment Operator positions. Our preferred candidate for DPW Director has accepted our offer, their first day is expected to be January 18, 2022. The administrative assistant and remaining equipment operator positions will be discussed with the new Director prior to conducting searches. The consultant has provided a verbal report on DPW operations. A written report is forthcoming. This will be useful for the new Director to work through as they become oriented to the position.

Other Staff Changes

Our finance clerk on contract through Robert Half has given their notice. In the short term we will be relying on Robert Half to staff the position but longer term we will advertise the permanent position.

Covid-19 Response

I continue to monitor town operations with regard to the Delta and Omicron variants. After some consideration we have decided to delay the restart of the after-school program until we can review more information. Like many others I am concerned about the latest CDC guidance that has reduced the quarantine period to five days. We have no way of providing rapid tests to staff or visitors to town buildings. Therefore, we cannot verify people infected with the Omicron variant are in fact non-transmissible after five days (regardless of being asymptomatic). We have unvaccinated and vulnerable members of staff and/or staff who are caregivers to vulnerable family members. We cannot compel people to provide proof of vaccination, or take a test. We have no idea when we will have adequate test kits. Any adjustments to our current plan will reflect the realities of our situation in terms of what we can ask of staff and visitors to provide by way of information or agreeing to take regular tests.