

TOWN HALL MONTHLY: November

The early October Selectmen's meeting was canceled because the Board had met the week before and there were no new agenda items. October is somewhat a waiting period for Town business. Charlotte is waiting for departments to submit their 2025 budgets. Marianne is waiting for the Department of Revenue (DRA) to set the year's tax rate so that fall tax bills can be sent out. Historically, Fall Mountain School District needs extra time to report its information to DRA. This is a good time to remember that the Local School rate is the largest part of our total Town rate.

At their late October meeting Selectmen are slated to review building permits and Intents to Cut. Recently the Board updated the Town's Road Regulations including Use and Maintenance of Class 6 Roads. The Town has regulation in place which allows for securing documentation of the condition of a road before an applicant/user begins their project so that we have a basis to request rectifying any damage done.

We've noted that the Planning Board began discussion of the annual update of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). That is the first piece of the next year's budget. On October 28 the Board plans to review drafts of Highway Department equipment needs and road projects separate from any roads which have pending FEMA involvement. The CIP becomes finalized in November and is one of the pieces Selectmen need to consider is drafting the overall Town budget during the month of December.

Though we've nearly completed reimbursement of 2021 flood repairs and have a good start on reimbursement of 2023 flood repairs, the remaining projects will be the most challenging. Restoration of Thayer Brook Road, Crane Brook Road and the Forest Road Bridge will take several years. Each of them involves an engineering phase, which we are in now, and then a permitting phase, which will run through the NH Department of Environmental Services and the Army Corp of Engineers, before we reach construction. We are told to expect each phase to take up to a year. If you can, come to meetings so that you will know firsthand where the Town stands. Charlotte has an email list of people who receive Selectboard agendas in advance. Just let her know you want to be a recipient.

Meanwhile, the weather is beautiful, surprising, and scary. One more thing, Covid is around. Take care, Kathi