

## TOWN HALL MONTHLY: July

Projects still requiring FEMA processing from the 2021 flood have been reduced to 4. Of those, the project made up of several small roads such as Sam Putnam and John Symonds, is the closest to FEMA reimbursement. The other 3 projects are for Town administrative costs, for interest on the flood repair loan, and for Nye Road. The restoration of Nye Road has been considered a low priority by the Town because the Town Meeting vote to open the Class 6 end of the road resolved access to the satisfaction of residents there. Most recently FEMA let us know there is a possibility that the Town could apply funds FEMA deems adequate to restore Nye Road to another location. This sounded too good to be true and a written explanation from our FEMA monitors will be needed.

There is one additional reimbursement due the Town which is not a particular project. It is the State's 5% portion of the total of the Town's FEMA eligible costs. The 5% State reimbursement was passed by the State legislature in 2021 as a way to assist all towns dealing with the flood devastation. As of January 1, 2023 that figure for Acworth was just over \$100,000 and although we have asked for it repeatedly, NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management has not been able to produce the funding. At the June 17 Selectmen's meeting a letter to the Governor was signed requesting the legislated funds.

The restoration of Bowers Brook to its pre-flood channel through South Acworth Village was completed on schedule in June. This project which was funded by the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) would never have happened without the work of local volunteers, particularly Mark Girard who monitored the work on the ground and Gregg Thibodeau who managed all of the DES funding requirements. At the end of the project the contractor, Fuzzy Brothers, of Walpole, donated loam and seeding of the areas around the South Acworth Church and Community Aid building. We are truly fortunate to have had such capable people working in our behalf.

Selectmen signed the spring property tax warrant at their June 3 meeting. Tax bills have been mailed and with them information was provided about how to register for emergency alerts. Charlotte and Jennifer have worked together to make this outreach available to us in the event we need it.

In other matters, the Highway Department has completed spring grading of most gravel roads and Glenn Elsesser was able to sell our old Ford 550 for us. The Select Board discussed septic compliance with residents seeking permitting for gray water systems. The Town's Zoning Ordinance requires State approved septic plans and the Department of Environmental Services is clear that any structure with water coming in, whether gravity fed or pumped, needs a septic plan. The Board also reviewed the Department of Revenue's recommendation that the Town conduct a revaluation sooner than the planned year of 2026. This is because rising real estate prices have caused the values set at our last revaluation to fall behind current market values. Fortunately funds are available in the Reval Capital Reserve Fund for the Town to conduct a revaluation next year.

At the March Town Meeting there was discussion about the State building code. We concluded the discussion with plans to work on a local building code ordinance which would allow the Town to engage a building inspector and enable the granting of occupancy permits which are becoming a requirement of most mortgage grantors. That process is beginning. Charlotte is researching State law and other towns' models on this. Please keep an ear out for more.

All meetings are posted on local bulletin boards and our website. See you soon, Kathi