

## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

December 11, 2023

While the FY25 budget work continues to take much of my time, there is quite a bit of other things happening.

The State is requiring that all water systems, including the Town's, to complete a lead inventory. All water users should have received a notice from the Town asking them to look at their connection and verify the material of their connection. If possible, the Town is asking users to take a picture of their connection and send it to the Water Department. To date, the department has received replies from about 30% of the users. We'd really like to have as many users as possible respond as that will lower the cost of doing the inventory. If you are unsure of the material of the connection or have any other question, please call the Water Department at 802-886-2208.

The water project this summer is complete other than a few punch list items. The pipes have been pressure tested. I'm very happy to say that the project met it's goal to significantly increase the water pressure to that side of Town while also replacing the ancient and undersized pipes. The Town has started working on the next section of the project. Last March, the Town approved a bond for this work, which is expected to take place next summer. This portion of the project will be Clinton Street from Bridge Street to the Desert Storm Bridge, Seavers Brook Road, Bridge Street, and Mill Road. Due to supply line concerns, we are expecting that the project will likely take more than one construction season.

The ST&RE Committee has completed work on a VOREC-funded project to improve signage and use of Hartness Park Trails and the Toonerville Trail. If you haven't walked these trails lately, I'd encourage you to do so. The new kiosks and signage is amazing, and the trails in Hartness Park are much improved. Thank you to the

committee members and the Parks and Recreation Department staff for their efforts. You have all made a difference.

I would like to thank a couple of long-term employees who have recently announced their retirements. David Tewksbury retired November 30<sup>th</sup> after nearly 20 years from the Public Works department. Also, Dan Farrar will be retiring after more than 18 years as the Manager of the Transfer Station. The Department hosted a very nice lunch buffet to recognize the work of both Dave and Dan. On behalf of the Town, I'd like to wish them well as they step into retirement. Congratulations!