

**Town Administrator's Report  
January 9, 2024 Select Board Meeting**

- I would like to remind everyone that it is time to renew their dog licenses. The bylaw has recently been changed and the Town will not be sending out reminder notices. We did have a number of upset residents last winter and received some negative feedback about the change. This year we are trying to get the word out using the message boards, social media, and the town's website. Please help us spread the word and encourage people to register their dogs by March 31<sup>st</sup> so they are not charged the late fees and penalties. Registration can be done in-person, online, or by mail. If anyone has any questions about registering their dog, please reach out to the Town Clerk's Office.
- I'd like to provide you a brief update on the next steps for filling the vacant Recreation Director position. I have made some updates to the job description, which is currently under review by the Union. We will be finished negotiating those changes shortly, then the position will be posted. I do intend on creating a broad interview panel to review the candidates, and have invited the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Recreation Committee to help us with that process. In the meantime, Katie is doing a wonderful job keeping as many programs running as possible. We will do our best to limit any impacts to the public, but do ask for people's patience, as it is now a 1-person department until the vacancy is filled.
- Unfortunately the COA has had to unexpectedly suspend their café program due to personnel changes. The COA and HR are working together to resume that service as soon as possible.
- I have had the opportunity to speak with a representative from the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, and more information about their campaigns are available at [standuptojewishhate.org](http://standuptojewishhate.org). I also have requested time to speak with the Anti-Defamation League, but have not been able to schedule that yet. However, as you may be aware, the Massachusetts Municipal Association is placing an emphasis on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and the Significance for Municipalities during the upcoming annual conference. A DEI workshop will be offered twice on Friday, and again on Saturday. For those of us who are able to attend the conference, I encourage us all to go to this workshop, at some point in our time there. Then I recommend that we set aside some time to discuss what we learned together as a group, and you can determine how to best move the conversation forward.
- The Cape Cod Commission has shared their "Draft Regional Housing Strategy" for public comments. It is available on their website, and I encourage all interested parties to review it and send comments prior to Friday, January 19, 2024.
- The Town has closed with Anna's Pals on the Hoxie School and the property has been officially turned over to begin its next life as a summer retreat for children with severe illnesses.
- As you may remember, we had a fairly significant storm in mid-December with a strong tidal surge. We have assessed the Town's marinas, and it appears that we only experienced minor damage as a result. We will be back out tomorrow morning checking for more damage after tonight's storm.

- We've completed another round of sampling in December at the Community Building for the soil remediation clean-up project. The data indicates that the trends are moving in the right direction with high dissolved oxygen and lower levels of petroleum compounds at all the test locations. We will continue to monitor the site in accordance with the DEP standards, and are hopeful that we will be able to close out the site by the end of this calendar year.
- In 2023 ISWM diverted a total of 8.22 tons of food waste from the landfill.