

**Town Administrator's Report  
November 21, 2023 Select Board Meeting**

- There have been some questions and concerns expressed about public employees receiving gifts around the holidays. This can be a bit of a tricky area, and we want to make sure that nobody accidentally falls on the wrong side of the Ethics Law. The HR Director and Town Counsel have put together a reminder page of “helpful tips” that has been shared with employees and is being posted throughout the various public buildings. Employees are also being encouraged to reach out to HR or the Town Administrator’s Office with specific questions as they arise.
- Trane has begun working on equipment replacement at Fire Station 3 and controls wiring at the Community Building. It is expected that work will be ongoing at both of these locations throughout the rest of the calendar year. It is our intention to not negatively impact operations during the upgrades, and we will stay in close communication with the Fire Department, COA and Recreation Department throughout the project.
- The Commonwealth has created a “Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office” that has created a Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership for Municipalities and Tribes. I did attend the first meeting, and will continue to attend the monthly updates. This is an initiative of the state to increase our collective competitiveness to secure federal funding.
- The Open Space Committee and Americorps have just completed a stewardship project in Four Ponds and the Town Forest to maintain some of the paths that were in need of attention. I’d like to thank them for their time and assistance.
- We have recently received some questions about hunting in the vicinity of the Bournedale School. There is a prohibition against carrying any weapons on school property itself. There is no current limitations on town-owned property in that area. Much of the land to the north of Earnest Valerie Road is private property where hunting may be allowed by permission of the land owner.

Most of the hunters in that area are generally bow or black powder hunters, and the Police Department and Department of Natural Resources do not have any recent records of any improper hunting. There is a general threshold that a firearm cannot be discharged within 500’ of a dwelling, or within 150’ of a public way.

- By the end of October, ISWM and the schools have diverted 5.31 tons of food waste thus far in calendar year 2023.
- The Recreation Department will be hosting a Winter Dance on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be attending and available for visits and photos.