

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As directed by the select board the town office worked on the following projects during 2020:

COVID 19: The world wide pandemic dominated everything about 2020. Plainfield has been fortunate to have a very deep team in the areas of Human Services, Police, Fire and EMS. Plainfield was quick to adopt a mask ordinance. Community outreach and connecting our local government with access to state and federal resources was a constant theme all year. In the midst of this crisis we were required to hold four elections this year including a presidential election. The extraordinary work of Town Clerk Michelle Marsh cannot be overstated this year.

Meriden Covered Bridge: In early spring, realizing that the summer was going to be very uncertain with respect to COVID, the select board, after meeting directly with Modern Protective Coatings, authorized the cleaning, repair and recoating of the Meriden Covered Bridge still super structure as our annual road project. Modern Protective Coatings too was facing uncertainty with their work schedule and were able to provide favorable pricing if they could start in late spring. The risk was that we would get the bridge closed and torn apart and be shut down due to COVID. Thankfully, that did not happen. The work now completed will insure that the bridge remains a part of our community for decades to come.

Solid Waste Group: The office has provided support for a newly formed committee working on reviewing the town's existing curbside collection based solid waste management plan. In 2020 this group tested the regional market for other options for refuse collection and recycling processing. Finding no other viable option the town remains with Casella Waste Management.

Town Facility Management: The Selectmen appointed a town's building committee to work with Facility Manager Brad Atwater on the management of town buildings. Significant weatherization and energy improvements were made to the Plainfield Fire Station, the Meriden Fire Station, and the Plainfield Library. In the case of the two fire stations our private Fire Associations helped to cover the cost of these improvements. The town also took advantage of funding opportunities from utility companies for these upgrades.

Employee Handbook: Working with local resident and consultant Bev Widger the Select board authorized a complete rework of the town's employee policies and handbook. The project was completed in December. A second phase of the project will continue into 2021 and will include a review of employee compensation.

Meriden Library Replacement Options: The Meriden Library Building Committee has continued to work on options for replacement of the existing Meriden Library building. A second vote on the project is planned for the 2021 town meeting.

Town Administrator, Stephen Halleran