

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

March 30, 2021

## **Marble Filming Schedule**

As noted earlier in the meeting, filming will start in earnest on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and happen daily until Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be times when it will take longer to get through the village but the roads will never be completely closed off. The majority of the Town Hall staff will be working remotely as much as possible to stay out of the way and to stay productive.

## **LED Streetlight modifications are complete**

I have waited a long time to offer this update and can happily report that a member of the Amherst Municipal Light division braved the chaos in the Village today and took responsibility for the installation of eight dimulators and shields at the locations approved by the traffic safety committee and this board last fall. I am hopeful the modifications will bring relief to those residents impacted. In related news I have heard from many residents how much they do like the new lights as the direct light allows for a darker sky when stargazing. We are still tracking the savings and I hope to have a report on that aspect of the project for you soon.

## **Upcoming Grant Opportunities:**

We are looking to apply for grant funding to complete a Fluvial Geomorphic Assessment and Survey of the Clesson Brook watershed, concentrating on the area along Route 112 to provide conceptual restoration designs for 4 priority sites and to provide final designs and cost estimates for ranked priority sites. We would target a 604B Water Quality Management Planning Grant issued by DEP and a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant issued through the office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. What is really interesting about this proposal is that we are looking to engage Great River Hydro and the agricultural community as co-investors in the project. We have learned the hard way, with the impact of Irene, that our community has too much to lose if we don't address riverbank stabilization proactively. I am working with FRCOG on this opportunity, so I don't want anyone worried that I am in over my head. Maybe a little.

The second project is a lot less intense. We are looking for the support of the Board to pursue, through Green Communities grant funding, a hybrid vehicle for the police department. Our patrol vehicles are in use around the clock and having a vehicle that has less of a carbon footprint will lessen the impact on our environment and our budget.

I am asking for a vote to designate the Chair to sign letters of support, as necessary.

## **In-person Meetings:**

Our Town Counsel has recently provided us with their opinion regarding the ability for public bodies to hold in-person meetings. They advise that town boards and committees may, but are not required to, hold indoor, in-person, meetings or hearings with a total capacity limit of 100 persons (including staff and board members), rather than the previous 10 person limit. Outdoor meetings or hearings held in public settings are capped at 150 persons.

The Governor's order allowing remote meetings under the Open Meeting Law is still in effect, however. You may still conduct either entirely virtual meetings/hearings, or "hybrid" meetings/hearings where the public is restricted to virtual access only, or given the option to participate virtually or in-person. It is important to remember, though, that where meetings/hearings are open to in-person public access/attendance, if the 100 (indoor) or 150 (outdoor) person maximum is reached, the meeting must terminate and be rescheduled to a future time, place and location that can accommodate greater numbers. As a result, where a public body anticipates a significant public attendance at a meeting or hearing, it may wish to opt for an entirely virtual meeting or limit the public's attendance to virtual access, with sufficient capacity to accommodate the anticipated number of virtual attendees, so that you are not faced with a situation of in-person public attendance in excess of the 100 or 150 person limitation, and thus forced to terminate the meeting/hearing. Finally, any in-person meeting or hearing must conform to social distancing requirements and face mask mandates.

The last time we visited this topic the Board voted to allow in-person meetings on a case by case allowance. It would be my recommendation to continue this practice but I bring it forward in the event that this board wishes to resume in-person meetings.