



A Message from your Town Administrator

It's February, and this year is already off to a busy start! We have welcomed two new employees this month: ZBA Office Manager Nicole Skyleson and new Police Officer Nicholas Barros. Welcome to town! We look forward to working with both of you.

The Board of Selectmen received an extensive update and report from the School Building Study Committee at their meeting of January 31. In just a few months, the volunteers on this Committee were able to gather a lot of information and develop preliminary recommendations on school space, or lack thereof, in our elementary and middle schools. I'd like to thank the Committee for their hard work and I look forward to the recommendations they will ultimately issue.

I've spent some time this month working on economic development. The Development and Industrial Commission has developed a *very* brief survey for you to fill out and return, asking about your specific business needs and requesting your input on which types of business you'd most like to see in Dighton. It'll be mailed out to residents and I hope you participate. I met with the Sewer Commission as well and requested that they conduct a study of their infrastructure, identifying ways in which we can, or should, expand so that we can be prepared for businesses to locate here. Additionally, I toured the mill on Spring Street to see for myself the space and to brainstorm ways in which the town could help find a suitable business for the area, increasing the business tax base.

Speaking of tours, I along with Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Jack Taylor visited Bristol-Plymouth Vocational Technical School and got a first-hand look at the various programs offered to students there. The projects of the students were very impressive and their café, the Silver Platter, was delicious! It is open to the public Wednesday - Friday. If you can make the trip for lunch, you should!

Old Town Hall is nearing the end of its renovations. The Building Department, Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals and Veterans Services Officer will be making the move later this month. The meeting room on the second floor is not quite complete, but from what I have seen it is clear they have done a wonderful job - it truly is a beautiful space and I look forward to using that space for future meetings and community events.

The Board of Selectmen has developed a Cannabis Task Force made up of a variety of Town Officials to monitor the regulations coming from the Cannabis Control Commission at the state level. Selectman Goulart, Selectman Zografos and myself attended a hearing held by the CCC and listened to many concerns relative to zoning adult-use marijuana facilities. The Task Force will use this information, and subsequent regulations coming from the CCC, as guidance to develop local policies and regulations for adult-use marijuana. Our first meeting is on March 1.

The Board has also revamped what is now the Emergency Preparedness Committee. As requested, I met with the Board of Health Chairman, the Health Agent, and the Fire Chief to make recommendations to the Selectmen as to the membership of this Committee as well as its mission and objectives. From this discussion, it was clear that school security, and security of any public building, are of the highest concern.

Sincerely,
Mallory Aronstein
Town Administrator