



A Message from your Town Administrator

March 2019

VOLUNTEER FOR THE TOWN!

A small town like Dighton relies heavily on volunteers to local boards and commissions. We currently have a variety of vacancies. If you're interested in serving, please submit a letter of interest to boardofselectmen@townofdighton.com. And thank you to all who serve in these capacities. We couldn't be successful without you!

Zoning Board of Appeals (2)

Dighton Trails Committee (2)

Soil Conservation Commission

Land Use Committee

By Law Study Committee (5)



It's spring! And with the lovely weather, we are just as busy as the bees outside. The Selectmen's meetings have been focused on the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. The Selectmen reviewed the budget in its entirety over the course of the month and forwarded recommendations to the Finance Committee, which will begin meeting next month. The spring is also a busy time for procurement and grant writing, both of which have dominated my time this month. We also held a Special Town Meeting late in the month and held an Open House at the new Police Station. Thank you to the officers and members of the Police and Communications departments for all their efforts in showing off this gorgeous facility to the residents of this town.

The Town also extends a warm welcome to our newest call Paramedic Tyler Knight, who will join the ranks of our call Fire Department. Thank you for your service, Tyler!

Board of Selectmen meetings now

begin at 6:30 p.m.

TOWN UPDATES

The Board of Selectmen recently voted to begin their meetings at 6:30 p.m., an hour earlier than previously scheduled. For a listing of anticipated meeting dates, please visit the Town's website.

The Town received \$25,000 from the state this fiscal year to benefit the Animal Shelter thanks to State Senator Marc Pacheco. The Town, at the Special Town Meeting in October 2018 generously matched that amount, for a total of \$50,000. Upon visiting the vacated police station, the Town quickly realized that the funds could accomplish more if dedicated to transforming the trailers. The Board of Selectmen voted to move the Animal Shelter to the transfer station and utilize the trailers as the shelter. They have been moved and placed on footings. Work on the interior will begin shortly. Major upgrades from our current shelter facility include a quarantine room, wash room, and climate control. We are very excited about the improvements to the shelter and the better quality of services we can provide for our four legged friends.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, MARCH 28, 2019

At the end of the month, 62 voters came together at the Dighton Middle School to discuss various matters before the Town. The voters unanimously approved allowing the Conservation Commission to

enter into an agreement with local farmer Ken Araujo for a period of at most 10 years to farm the land at Council Oak, which they purchased in December of 2017. The Town also voted to expend \$5,000 to hold a Household Hazardous Waste Day. The Board of Health is in the process of setting this program up for Fall 2019. The Town also voted to purchase the property at 949 Somerset Avenue, immediately abutting Town Hall and the municipal campus. Voters did not support making any repairs on the home, so it is expected that the building will be demolished. The closing date for this purchase is set for late April.

MORE MARCH NEWS

If you've been following along with budget presentations, you'll know that the Town is growing at a rapid pace and we are striving to keep up with the demand for services. The Board of Selectmen is requesting funding for a part-time assistant in the Board of Selectmen office. If funded, the position will work in conjunction with the Town Administrator and the Executive Assistant to better allocate duties within the office. We have made considerable changes in the Board of Selectmen's Office regarding efficiency and operations. But we still need help to accomplish the many tasks before us. Revised job descriptions are in the works, but a sample will be supplied to the Finance Committee so that they can make an educated recommendation on our budget requests. The Board did cut costs in the Data Processing budget by switching network monitoring vendors and moving email in-house rather than farming it out. This change effectively absorbs the cost of the additional personnel.

The Police Station officially held its Open House on March 23. Over 200 residents came to visit and tour their new facility. From all accounts it was a wonderful event. I'd like to give special recognition and thanks to the Building Committee, particularly Mr. Denis Maguy, Chairman, who worked tirelessly for many years. Thanks also to the men and women of the Dighton Police and Communications Departments who brought members of the public on tours and contributed to the success of this event. It is so wonderful to see this building up and open for business.

The Fire Chief is continuing work on his to-do list. His latest change has been to reinstate the leadership positions. He is adding a Lieutenant and a Captain position. Presently the department has a Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and one Lieutenant. Those promotional announcements are expected in late Spring.

The Board of Selectmen have also finalized a date for the Annual Town Meeting, which will be held on Monday, June 3, 2019 at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium. The warrant is open and closes May 1. A final warrant will be posted on or before May 16, 2019. The Community Preservation Committee is anticipating putting forth at least five articles, four of which are related to recreational land purchases and improvements. The fifth article is to provide funding for the Dighton Housing Authority to replace electrical panels in each housing unit. Their hearing is scheduled for April 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passports (renewal and new applications) are no longer processed at Town Hall. If you need a passport application, please call the library and make an appointment with the staff. Photos for the passports can still be taken at Town Hall – no appointment necessary.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 10 and April 17 – Selectmen's Meetings

April 16 – Finance Committee meetings begin

April 25 – Dighton 101, Sponsored by the Public Library: Old Town Hall 6:30 p.m.



Photo by Charles Winokoor, Taunton Gazette

Do you travel via Tremont Street? Expect delays if you do! The Town must close the road between Middle and Williams Streets to replace a culvert. The job is anticipated to last two weeks (if the weather holds). It begins on April 16, 2019. We appreciate your patience as we make this necessary improvement to the Town's infrastructure.

Save the date! On April 25, 2019, the Library will host **Dighton 101**. This is a program to come learn about your town, ranging from Trash Pickup information, special programs, to the nuts and bolts of how the Town as an organization runs. It is meant for all residents, not just new! The Town Clerk, Selectmen, and myself are all scheduled to attend and be there for you to ask your questions. I hope to see you there! The program starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall meeting room.

The Board of Health's new Curbside Textile Recycling Program is underway! Pink bags have been mailed to all households. Fill this bag with textiles: clothes, blankets, stuffed animals, drapes, curtains, shoes, coats, and more. Items do not need to be in good condition. Leave your bag(s) out on trash day and receive a new pink bag to fill up later! This initiative aims to keep textiles out of household trash as items can be resold or recycled. Textiles, which can be heavy, contribute to the Town's weight for trash hauling, thus driving up the Town's costs for rubbish disposal. The benefits to the Town, outside of this being an environmentally sound initiative, are two-fold: The Town saves money by removing these items from the weight and the town receives \$20 for each ton of textiles collected.

THE BIG CHEESE



March's Big Cheese is Administrative Assistant Karin Brady! Karin routinely goes above and beyond, exhibiting unparalleled customer service. I joked that I could give her this award every month because she so often meets this high standard. She is willing to help everyone and anyone, and always does so with a smile and quick results. Specifically this month, however, Karin received this award due to her instrumental efforts in coordinating a massive phone system upgrade. It was not a smooth roll out. Karin served as mediator between users and technicians, often solving the issues on her own. She was a key point person for a town-wide project. There was significant back and forth and more than her fair share of aggravation. Karin completed these tasks over and above her normal course of duties, which is a workload not for the faint of heart. We don't know how she does it,

but Karin always finds a way to meet the deadlines, fix the problems, and assist, and always with a great attitude, too. Thank you for always going above and beyond, Karin, even when it's a bit of an impossible ask! Well deserved!